

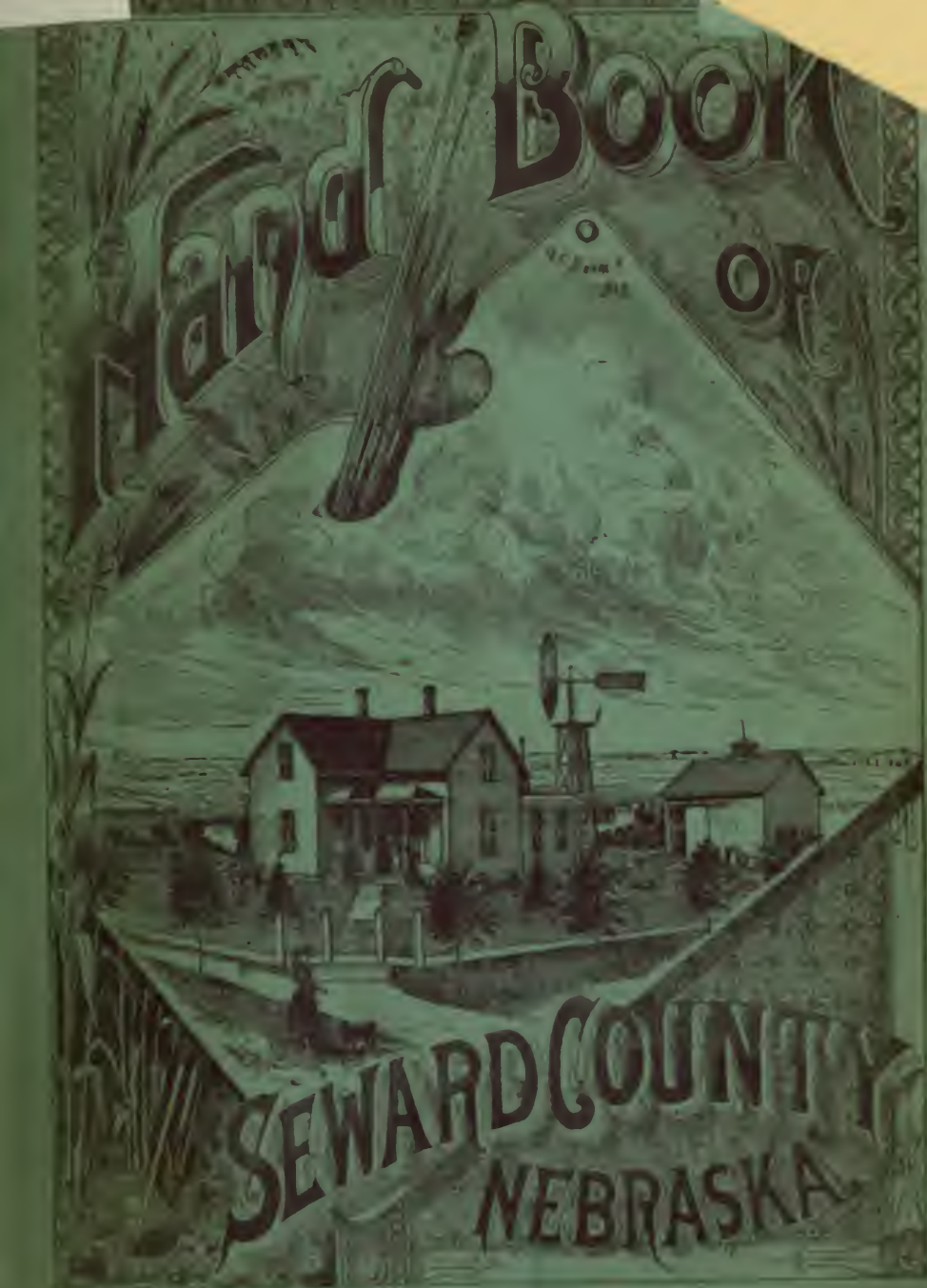
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Seward County Hand-Book.

FROM THE "MODERN ARGO," KANSAS CITY, MO.

EDITORIAL NOTES

From the "South Platte
Country" in

SOUTHERN NEBRASKA.

A Graphic Account of the Farms
and Farmers, Grain Fields,
Grasses, Groves, Or-
chards, Vineyards,
Herds and
Homes of

SEWARD COUNTY.

Its Climate, Topography, Soils, Water
Supply, Agricultural Possibili-
ties, Schools, Social Order,
Railways, Markets
and Land Val-
ues.

A GROUP OF PROSPEROUS TOWNS:

Seward, Milford, Utica, Staplehurst,
Ulysses and Beaver Crossing.

The Matchless Blue Valley Under Mid-
Summer Skies.

If the reader would see a land of superla-
tive beauty and bloom and fruition, he may
find it in

"THE SOUTH PLATTE COUNTRY"

of southeastern Nebraska, a region which, if
outlined by the Platte river on the north, the
Missouri river on the east, the Kansas line on
the south, and the west line of Hamilton, Clay
and Nicols counties on the west, will disclose
a soil as fertile and bountiful, and a land-
scape as fair and inviting as any country
of equal extent between Boston harbor and
the Golden Gate. In the heart of this won-
drously rich and beautiful prairie is

SEWARD COUNTY,

with an area of 576 square miles, bounded on
the north, east, south and west. respectively,

by Butler, Lancaster, Saline and York coun-
ties. It has

AN ENVIABLE LOCATION

In the fairest portion of the upper Big Blue
valley, sixty miles west of the Missouri river,
forty miles south of the Platte river, sixty-
five miles southwest of Omaha, twenty-five
miles northwest of Lincoln and about sixty
miles north of the northern boundary of Kan-
sas. It lies in the geographical center of the
Union, in the heart of the Missouri valley and
within that remarkable belt of country—less
than 400 miles wide—reaching from ocean to
ocean, in which are located all the great com-
mercial, financial and railway centers, all the
great universities, the strongest and densest
population, the strongest agriculture, the great
dairy and fruit interests, and nine-tenths of
the manufacturing industries of the country.
It lies too in the pathway of westward drifting
immigration, empire and civilization, and, by
virtue of its commercial, material and politi-
cal relations to the four grand divisions of the
Union, has a splendid destiny.

Seward county has the further fortune of an
AGREEABLE AND HEALTHFUL CLIMATE.

It lies between the latitudes of New York and
Philadelphia; has a mean elevation of 1,450
feet above the tides and is happily exempt
from the extremes of northern cold and south-
ern heat and humidity. The long, genial and
growing summer, with its breezy days and
cool restful nights, is a benediction. The au-
tumn is delightful, and often runs into the
holidays. The typical winter is short, open
and dry, with little snow-fall and rarely too
severe to prevent comfortable out-of-door em-
ployment. The early spring brings its full
measure of sharp and sometimes disagreeable
winds, but they bring health and vigor from
the pure air of the plains and mountains.

A HIGH AVERAGE OF HEALTH

obtains throughout this upper Blue valley,
where there is little malaria, plenty of pure
water, a crisp, dry, life-giving atmosphere,
and where hundreds of invalids have found
redemption from the ills of the older eastern
states.

The traveler may never find a region whose

TOPOGRAPHICAL CHARM

excel those of Seward county, which from end
to end is a land of marvelous, bewildering
beauty, where graceful billowy prairies,
broad table lands, sweet pastoral valleys, clear
winding timber-fringed streams, green grassy
glades and intervals, green islands of tim-
ber, delightful miniature canons and ravines
and beauty-haunted glens unite in

A MATCHLESS LANDSCAPE,

which, though wanting in the rugged grandeur
of mountain scenery, abounds in a thousand
lineaments of pastoral grace and beauty, gives
no sense of lousiness or monotony, and is
quite beyond the power of my poor English to

describe. The

WATER SUPPLY

of this county is ample and admirable. The east and west forks of the Big Blue river, Lincoln, Beaver, Middle, Crooked, Plum and Walnut creeks and a score of spring brooks, drain every portion of the county, and with numerous springs and hundreds of living wells, afford an abundance of pure water for all domestic uses. The

NATIVE FORESTS

of oak, ash, elm, walnut, hickory, hackberry, box elder, cottonwood, linden, sycamore, maple, willow and kindred woods that fringe the streams, cover about 20,000 acres, and with the abatement of the annual prairie fires, are steadily widening their area. The

DOMESTIC GROVES

of willow, cottonwood, box-elder, maple, ash, walnut, catalpa, elm, and other varieties that have been planted and cultivated by the hands of the more provident and enterprising farmers, add many thousands of acres to the forestry of the county, and beyond their utilitarian uses, lend indescribable grace to the landscape. Nowhere in the new west is

TREE PLANTING

carried on more extensively or successfully than in Seward county, which has more than 2,500 of these beautiful domestic groves, which generally environ the homes, outbuildings, orchards and stock yards of the farmers, affording the most grateful and delightful summer and winter protection, and materially adding to the æsthetic and commercial value of the finest farms and homes, where their growth is so rapid and perfect that the industry is being carried to splendid proportions. A good supply of

BUILDING STONES,

both of the lime and freestone varieties, are found at several points in the county. Good brick are made from native clays and there are some valuable deposits of fire and potter's clay within the reach of enterprising manufacturers. It may interest the reader to know something about the

COST AND METHODS OF FENCING

in this country. All kinds of hedging known to the middle latitudes do well here, and there are probably full 2,500 miles of willow, honey locust and osage orange (Bois d'Arc) hedge in the county, some of which is allowed to grow into stately and dense wind breaks, but much of which, notably the osage orange, is trained into fine stock-proof fencing, which in the hands of good cultivators, flourishes as well here as in the further southwest. Barbed wire, however, is the universal and popular fence material and is sold in the local markets as cheaply as in any of the older states. In no particular does Seward county commend itself to the critical and discriminating visitor so strongly as in the uniformity, depth, versatility and bounty of

THE SOILS,

which, from end to end of the county, present a wealth of productive resource that may challenge comparison with the world-famous

farm districts of the older eastern states or Europe.

THE VALLEYS AND BOTTOMS

of the Blue river, Lincoln creek and the minor streams, cover about 80,000 acres, and are composed of a rich black alluvial deposit from six to ten feet deep, and while they lead any of the famous eastern valleys in grace of landscape, are not one whit behind the Mohawk, Scioto and Genesee valleys for rich and enduring production. The superficial soils of

THE HIGH PRAIRIES

are mainly a black flexible mould, enormously rich in humus, easily worked, from twelve to thirty inches deep, and fully as productive as the best upland prairie soils of Illinois or Iowa. Moreover, they have great advantage over the surface soils of the states named, by virtue of

THE SUBSOILS

which throughout the entire county, are largely composed of silicious clays and marls peculiar to the Loess or bluff deposits of the Missouri valley, and nearly identical with the world famous lacustrine deposits of the Rhine and Nile. This substructure underlies every district which I had the pleasure of inspecting, and is not a dead, impervious "hard-pan" clay, but is the most variously gifted and highly productive soil known to husbandry. Indeed it is

PRACTICALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE,

as its history and multiform uses in the old world for many centuries have proven. It is largely composed of silica, lime and magnesia carbonate, lime phosphate, alumina, organic matter and other constituents of an imperishable soil, is open and porous in structure, readily absorbs the surplus moisture and retains it with great tenacity, to be given back to vegetation by slow capillary attraction in seasons of extended drouth. This subsoil runs down to the water level or bed rock, is warm and quick, readily slackens to the consistency of an ash heap on exposure to frost and air, and will prove

A MINE OF AGRICULTURAL WEALTH

to the deep, thorough, systematic cultivators of the future, long after these darker surface alluvials have found their way down the rivers to the bed of the ocean. They are better than the guano beds or compost heap, for they underlie every acre of the farms of Seward county; were ages ago composted in the perfect laboratory of nature; are at the command of every farmer and bear in their primary elements and combination the richest and most enduring food for grasses, grains, fruits and vegetables that were ever brought under tribute to the sagacious and intelligent cultivator. Whatever may be the judgment concerning them of the men who at best but crudely and superficially handle the surface soils to-day, these gray marls disintegrated by the frosts and sunshine of the coming years, and by deep cultivation blended with the darker earth above them, will give the needed consistency and versatility and transform Seward county into

A VERITABLE GARDEN;



F. W. Upton & Bros.'s Sheep Ranch, on the West Blue.



Diers' Block, Seward.

as rich as the lowlands of the Nile, and as fair and bounteous as the sunny slopes of Sorrento. In a dozen years of western travel I cannot recall a district of equal extent with a more uniformly fertile soil than this county, which has

NOT A QUARTER SECTION OF WASTE LAND within its borders, no stumps, no out-cropping rocks, no bald bluffs and no irredeemable swamps or lagoons to bar the progress of husbandry or disfigure the perfect contour of a county which the great God evidently made for a dense and highly prosperous rural population. The

PERFECT NATURAL DRAINAGE

afforded by the porous structure of the sub-soils, the frequent deep set streams, "draws" and ravines and the undulating surface of the country give the farmer ready command of his fields for cultivation, even in seasons of unusual moisture, and absolve him from the necessity for artificial drainage. The peculiar composition of the soils, too, affords the farmer comparative immunity from the disasters that follow long seasons of drouth in less favored regions. It may be said to the lasting credit of Seward county that her better farmers have

NEVER LOST A CROP

from the effects of drouth. These soils, too, are as versatile as they are available. No portion of the Union affords

A WIDER RANGE OF PRODUCTION.

The Seward county farmer may grow in perfection every grain, grass, plant, fruit and vegetable produced between the latitude of Washington and Winnipeg. No country gives higher sanctions to

"VARIETY" FARMING

than this upper Blue river country, as will be clearly attested by the testimony of half a hundred good farmers in the later portions of this sketch. Wheat, rye, barley, oats, flax, broom corn, sorghum, millet, Hungarian, buckwheat and all the grasses, vegetables, fruits and flora of the medium latitudes flourish here in profusion and perfection.

SPRING WHEAT

In former years was produced to the extent of half a million bushels annually, and was the special crop to which everything else was subordinated takes an humble place in the list of grains now, and the annual yield of the county ranges from 150,000 to 250,000 bushels, the yield per acre running from ten to twenty-five bushels, and in extreme cases, thirty to thirty-five bushels.

CORN IS KING

here to-day, by a right infinitely diviner than any kingship among men and is rapidly growing in favor. The great crop of 1882 in Seward county is estimated by good judges to have reached 3,500,000 bushels, and the yield per acre ranged from thirty-five to ninety bushels, according to soil and cultivation. Sixty and seventy-five bushels to the acre are not uncommon with the best farmers, who, under favorable conditions, get even as high as 100 bushels per acre. No crop is surer, and

the day is not distant when this county will annually produce 6,000,000 bushels of corn.

OATS

are a splendid crop in these loose, friable soils, the only drawback being a tendency to overgrowth and lodgement in wet seasons. The yield runs from thirty to seventy bushels to the acre, and the annual crop of the county from 500,000 to 1,000,000 bushels.

RYE

is almost universally grown by the farmers for fall and winter pasturage, after which it gives a yield of fifteen to thirty bushels per acre. A yield of forty bushels is sometimes attained under favorable conditions.

BARLEY

is also an excellent crop, giving a yield of twenty-five to fifty bushels per acre, and is growing in favor among feeders.

FLAX

is cultivated to a liberal extent, gives about the same yield as in the older states, and finds a ready market in Omaha, where are located the most extensive oil works in America.

BROOM CORN.

is very successfully grown by a few experienced cultivators, who assure me that the brush grown here commands the highest price in the market, and that a single crop often nets them the full value of the land on which it is raised.

AMONG OTHER FIELD CROPS.

sorghum is cultivated by many farmers with gratifying results. Millet is largely grown, and gives a bountiful yield. The Irish and sweet potato do finely in any of these soils, and the entire list of northern field crops are as thoroughly at home here as in any part of the Union. Seward county and all this upper Blue river country may fairly be called

THE GARDEN LAND,

for there is no region on the continent where every product of the garden flourishes in greater profusion and perfection or with so little care.

Seward county is making steady and commendable progress in

FRUIT GROWING.

All varieties of the apple that flourish west of the Mississippi are successfully fruiting here. The pear has not been sufficiently tested to determine its value for the local orchard. The Morello cherry family are all fruiting abundantly. The Chickisaw red plum family are a marked success. The peach bears well occasionally, but is not reliable. The Concord grape and other hardy varieties are very fruitful and of the first quality. The Snyder and Kitting blackberry are a grand success. Turner's red raspberry and the Blackcap are very productive, and the strawberry is a decided success with all good cultivators. Fruit culture is receiving general attention and there



"Akee J.," an Imported Friesian Cow, Owned by Hon. Claudius Jones & Son, Seward.

are scores of orchards now in bearing and hundreds more that will give the county a full home supply of fruit within the next five years. Mr. H. A. Johns, the northern manager of the well-known York Nursery Co., of Fort Scott, Kansas, and a comoisieur in fruit growing, has visited nearly every old orchard and fruit yard in Seward county and pronounces it a capital country for apples, plums, cherries, and all the small fruits of the vineyard and garden. This county is essentially

THE HOME OF THE GRASSES,

which from the wild varieties that grow on the native ranges and meadows to the richest herbage of the lawn, have a growth as luxuriant and tenacious as in any region on the continent.

THE WILD GRASSES,

number more than 100 varieties, make a strong, stalwart and tenacious growth on every acre of land not under tribute to the plowman, and have given the farmers of Seward county more net revenue than all the other crops combined. A full third of the country is still covered with this rich native herbage, which is not only a capital substitute for domestic hay, but from April to September, makes the finest grazing known to American husbandry. Timothy leads

THE DOMESTIC GRASSES

with a growth as rich and strong as in any of the older states and is cultivated by all the progressive farmers in the county. Red clover makes a splendid growth, is much more tenacious than in any of the eastern states, and is finding a home on most of the well managed farms. The all-conquering

BLUE GRASS

is an unqualified success here and is steadily making its way to the conquest of field and forest, highway and lawn with a growth as strong and tenacious and luxuriant as in Kentucky or Illinois. Herd grass—red top—too, makes a capital showing and white clover is a decided success. Orchard grass has been tried with excellent results and is sure to become popular with the better class of farmers. The area of the clover and timothy meadows and pastures is widening with wonderful rapidity, and it is safe to say that 5,000 acres are now well stocked with these staple grasses. That Seward county is

A SUPERB STOCK COUNTRY

there is no longer any room for doubt. The abundance of pure and wholesome water, the profusion and high quality of the grasses, the fine shelter now afforded by the native and domestic groves, the extent and wealth of the corn fields, the dry and invigorating atmosphere, and the high average of health and vitality among all classes of stock, together with the comparative cheapness of land and transportation, give the stock men of this region

MANIFEST AND MARKED ADVANTAGE

over the stock growers of the older states, whose expensive shelter, high-priced lands and feed and climatic disabilities are steadily and surely driving them out of

THE RACE FOR SUPREMACY

in this noblest of all rural industries. It is assuring to the visitor to ride for days and days over this beautiful county and note the number and high character of the herds of cattle and swine, and realize

THE MARVELOUS CHANGE

that has come over local stock husbandry in half a dozen years. As late as 1876, wheat led the staple crops by a good margin, but it was found unprofitable as a specialty and the more sagacious farmers turned their attention to "variety" farming with corn as the leading staple, and to-day the extent and bounty of the corn fields is the chief glory of this matchless and magnificent Blue valley. Naturally enough the corn growers drifted into cattle and swine raising and the county has grown rich and prosperous by the change. Stock breeding, raising and feeding is

THE ABSORBING INDUSTRY,

—the one grand, entertaining and advancing occupation of the day and location to which the superb fields of corn, rye, oats, and barley and the grasses are tributary.

THE EXTENT OF THE INDUSTRY,

considering the age of local stock husbandry, is altogether surprising. With the warrantable assumption that the official reports are too meager and imperfect to be worthy of consideration, I think it safe to say that fully 4,000 horses and mules, 20,000 cattle, 4,500 sheep and 40,000 swine are now owned and kept within the county, and, with the exception of sheep, the herds are rapidly increasing. The eastern visitor will find a pleasant surprise, too, in the

HIGH CHARACTER OF THE HERDS.

The typical scrub of the old time is fast yielding to high grades of draught, road and turf horses, Merino, Cotswold and Down sheep, Durham, Hereford, Holstein and Jersey cattle, and Poland-China, Berkshire and Jersey pigs, and it is but fair to say that in all these lines of stock, the herds of the county will compare with those of Illinois, Ohio or Michigan.

STOCK BREEDING

is taking fine proportions and rapidly being carried up to the best levels of this grand industry. Mr. A. Rogy, the proprietor of the well known "Pacific Stock Farm," with its superb stud of Percherons, at Seward, has made several importations of this noble race direct from the foremost breeding farms and stables of France, and the county is now well stocked with as fine thoroughbred Percherons as may be found in any country. E. W. Upton & Bro., of the "West Blue Stock Farm," have a superior imported English draught stallion, and Hambletonian and other popular turf and road stock are bred to a fair extent by several horsemen. Messrs. Gill, Jones, Henderson, Hickman, Hafer, Seals, Courtright, Redford, and others are breeding thoroughbred short horns, and have in their herds model types of this popular race. Claudius Jones has a herd of fifteen imported Holsteins that will challenge comparison with any in the west. Mr. A. D. Ritchie, one of the most successful breeders of Merinos in the west, has done capital service to advance sheep husband-



"Temple Brewer," an Imported Lincolnshire Cart Horse, Owned by F. W. Upton,
of West Blue Stock Farm.

ry, and there are a score of successful breeders of thoroughbred Berkshire's and Poland-China's, among them Messrs. Griffen, Redford, Hickman, Upton, Jones, Hafer, Gill, Wright, and others, much of whose stock has style and lineage equal to any in the country. The leading feature of local stock husbandry is

CATTLE AND SWINE FEEDING,

which is not only a grand success, but is being carried to splendid proportions. The yearly export of fat steers and pigs now reaches a value of \$1,000,000, and is likely to be doubled within the next five years. No other department of Seward county husbandry is so successful and profitable. Every farmer feeds well bred Berkshires or Poland's, the number ranging from fifteen to 250, according to the ability

GROWING RICH

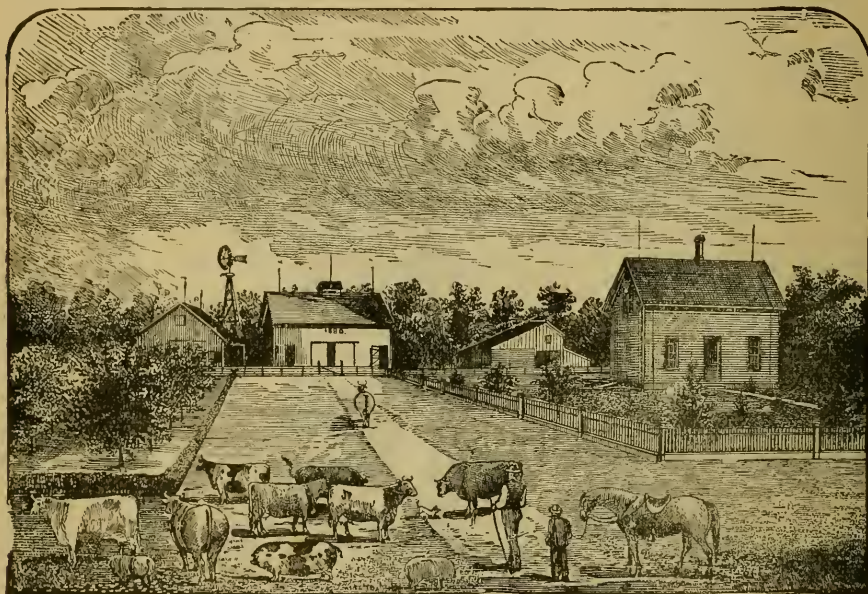
and independent out of their corn fields and herds, and the "opulent granger" is becoming about as common here as in Illinois or Ohio.

SHEEP FARMING

has been made an unqualified success by several men, who assure me that there is no finer sheep country in the world than Seward county. It is clearly

A NATURAL DAIRY COUNTRY

too, but strangely enough there is not a butter or cheese dairy of any magnitude in the entire county, which could, with great profit, support half a dozen creameries and cheese factories. Stock husbandry in Seward county is



"Walnut Hill," the Home and Stock Farm of Levi Hafer, Near Seward.

of the feeder. Many of the abler farmers make an annual feed or two of steers, the number fed upon each farm varying from ten to 150 well bred animals, which are followed by an equal number of pigs that fatten on the droppings and litter of the feed yard. Messrs. Price, True, Brown, Palmer, Hickman, the Henderson, Dobson, F. W. Upton & Bro. brothers Ritchie and several of the abler feeders, who have followed the business in the older states, assure me that this industry is

WONDERFULLY FAVORED

in Seward county, which, on account of the dryness of the soil and climate, is, by comparison with any of the older states, a stock feeder's paradise. Whatever may be the relative advantages of this county as a stock country, one thing is patent to the dulllest observer; the farms are fast

A NOBLE CALLING,

and develops a race of royal men. It is the one grand and growing occupation of the day and location. If it be eminently practical and profitable, so too, it is

INVESTED WITH A POETIC CHARM.

To grow the green, succulent, luxuriant grasses, develop the finest lines of grace and beauty in animal conformation, tend one's herds and flocks on the green, fragrant range, live in an atmosphere of delicate sympathy with the higher forms and impulses of the animal life in one's care, and to be inspired by the higher sentiments and traditions of honorable breeding, is

A LIFE TO BE COVETED

by the best men of all lands. By the side of the herds and grasses and herdsmen of such a

country as this, the men of the grain fields are nowhere. These men of the herds are leading a far more satisfactory life than the Hebrew shepherds led on the Assyrian hills in the old dead centuries; they tend their flocks, live with and love one woman, and raise honest children in

THE SWEET ATMOSPHERE OF CONTENT.

They are in peace with their neighbors, and look out upon a pastoral landscape as fair as ever graced the canvas of Turner. The skies above them are as radiant as those above the Arno, and if the finer arts of the old lands are little cultivated by the herdsmen of these peaceful valleys, they are yet devoted to the higher art of patient and honorable human living.

Stock raising is greatly facilitated in this county by

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

The A. & N. division of the B. & M. railway from Lincoln to Columbus follows the Blue river and valley across the county via Milford, Seward, Staplehurst and Ulysses. The Lincoln and Central City division of the B. & M. road crosses the county from east to west via Germantown, Seward, Ulea, the two lines giving the county eight railway stations and direct connections, both north and south, with the entire railway system of the state. A branch of the Union Pacific, completed very near to the north line of the county, gives the stock shippers competitive rates to Chicago and the certainty of a new railway across the county at an early day. The

COUNTY FINANCES

are in capital condition and are managed with marked ability and fidelity. The principal and interest of the moderate bonded indebtedness is paid with promptness; there are no repudiators of the public obligation, and the burdens of excessive taxation incident to the older tax-ridden eastern communities, are wholly unknown. The county has

AN ADMIRABLE SCHOOL SYSTEM,

representing upwards of ninety free public schools and as many school houses, and there is not a single child of fortunate or lowly birth in the county without the advantages of a liberal elementary education. A score of

CHURCHES,

representing all the leading denominations, dispense religious pabulum to a population whose public and private morals are worthy of the fair and bounteous land of their adoption.

THE PEOPLE

of Seward county represent nearly every civilized country, and in social, political and religious characteristics are as

THOROUGHLY COSMOPOLITAN

as any agricultural community between the two oceans. The northern, southern, eastern, western and middle states, the territories, the Canadian and western, central and northern Europe are all represented here with a high average of brain, heart, ambition, intelligence, worldly experience and practical talent. It is easy to see how the friction of diverse social, religious, political, commercial and agricultural elements in this composite mass, has

worn away provincial conceit and prejudice and is gradually giving breadth, strength, rational and liberal tendencies and completeness to every department of local life, and the outcome is a community as richly and variously gifted in mental, social and practical resource and personal and public enterprise as is this matchless Blue river country in the greatness of its agricultural possibilities.

THE PRACTICAL AND IDEAL

go hand in hand here to make the perfect rural life. These men and women of the grain fields and herds and orchards and gardens, though skilled in the practical ways of home building and bread getting, are yet, in good measure, lovers of the ideal, and could not live in the suggestive influence of these sweet pastoral landscapes without cultivating sentiment, and so they have easily and naturally drifted into close sympathy with the advanced thought of the hour, and, with schools and books and flowers and art. It is a great privilege to live and labor and learn in a country like this, where the soul and finer sense of the visitor are charmed by a thousand lines of grace and beauty before he has half measured its magnificent material resource—a land where even Apollo might tend his flocks and Sappho turn dairymaid singing her sweet songs in the seductive shadows of these mounds and groves.

To the foregoing notes upon the county, I am pleased to add a brief outline of

SEWARD,

the capital and foremost commercial town of the county. This beautiful and prosperous young city was platted in 1868 by Lewis Moffitt, and has now about 2,000 people. It has

AN ENVIALE LOCATION

upon a charming plateau overlooking Plum creek and the matchless valley of the Big Blue, which winds gracefully along the southern and western slopes of the city, in the shadows of delightful groves and fringes of timber, and down through miles and miles of valley, resplendent with the glory of superb corn fields and meadows. Above and beyond the inhospitable valleys of the Blue and Lincoln and Plum, roll grand reaches of billowy prairie, to whose native charms the hand of man has added a thousand graces of art in green islands of timber, miles of green hedge row, long columns of stately shade trees, fruitful orchards and vineyards, neatly-laid grain fields and cozy, tree-embowered lawns and homes. No interior western town has a lovelier environment of landscape than Seward, nor can any boast a more beautiful farm country. Among the

SALIENT FEATURES

of Seward are her fine elevators, two flouring mills, driven by unfailing water power; three banks, an admirable graded public school, half a dozen churches, a full and fine representation of the fraternalities, two enterprising newspapers, an elegant and capacious hotel, an opera house, literary and art associations, a charming, tree-embowered, central park, a capital showing of substantial business blocks and attractive homes. The two branches of the B. & M. railway bring the town within an hour's ride of the state capital and great com-

nections with the entire rail system of Nebraska, and, with the early extension of the Union Pacific to this point, Seward will have as desirable rail facilities as any interior town of the state.

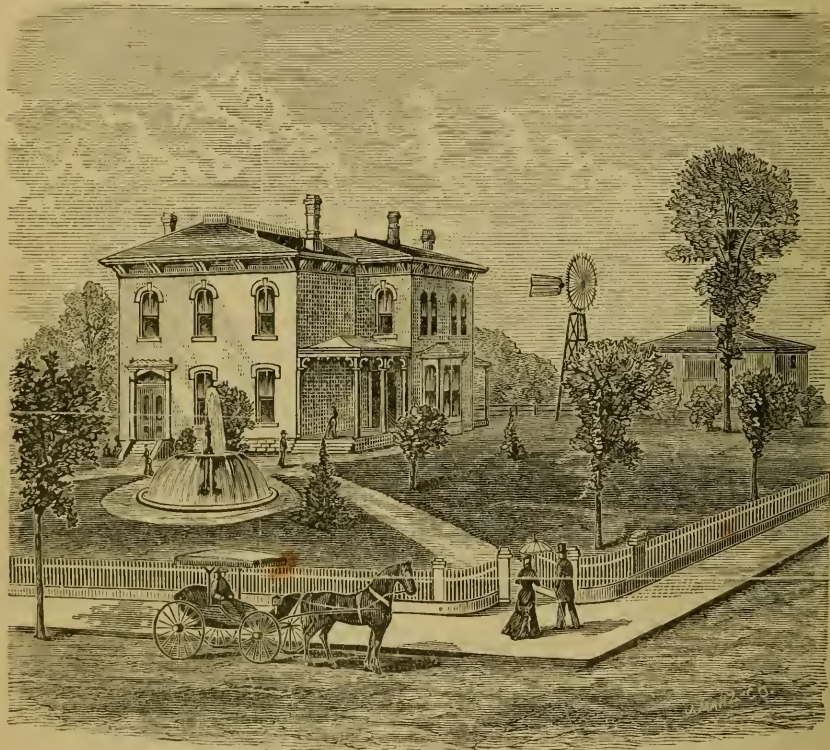
THE COMMERCIAL STATUS

of Seward is a compliment to the city and county. Most of the business capital in use here has been made on the spot, and few western towns of its class have more capable or solvent business men than Seward, whose yearly transactions in grain, live stock, lumber, farm machinery and general merchandise closely approximate \$1,500,000. There is little speculative tendency and no enthusiastic rushing of trade among the

trade of \$40,000 to \$55,000. Mr. Diers began here comparatively poor, in 1870, has made a good fortune, enjoys enviable credit, is one of the strongest and best men in the community and a representative German of decided public spirit.

J. T. Roberts & Bro. are among the leading grocers of the city, and, with their large and varied stocks of everything in this line, their exceptional energy, enterprise and mercantile ability, are a strong factor in the business of the town. They have a branch store at Ulysses, are backed by ample capital, pay as they go, are strong, progressive merchants and men, came here among the early settlers, and are representatives of Illinois.

The hardware trade is finely represented by



"Prairie Lawn," the Home of Claudius Jones, Esq., Seward.

REPRESENTATIVE BUSINESS MEN,

but rather a conservative and deliberate habit of keeping within rational commercial bounds and adjusting stocks and trades to local needs and demands. The average merchant discounts his bills of credit and regards trade as an art to be cultivated, rather than a mere speculative venture. The general merchandise trade of the city is ably represented by Herman Diers with his handsome business block, a heavily-stocked general store, admirable business methods and ability and a yearly

Rowlee & Vanderhoof with heavy stocks of heavy and shelf hardware, stoves, tin, sheet iron and copper ware, barbed wire and kindred goods in all of which they have a capital trade. They are young men of superior business gifts, prime credit and standing and worthily represent respectively the great states of New York and Michigan.

J. F. Goehner & Bro. are a strong, representative hardware firm, with large and complete stocks of everything demanded in this line, have a strong trade and rank with the

substantial concerns of the city. They have also a well stocked general store, under the firm name of Goehner Bros., and are conducting a liberal and growing trade in general merchandise.

John Zimmer has a heavily stocked hardware establishment, complete in every line and handles his business like a born merchant. His stocks of hardware, wagons, carriages and farm implements, not less than his thorough mercantile methods and enterprise, would do credit to a metropolitan town. Mr. Zimmer is essentially a live, progressive dealer and man, has made a brilliant success in trade and ranks with the foremost business concerns of the county.

The trade in farm machinery, wagons, carriages, wind mills, and kindred stocks is handled with exceptional ability and success by G. Babson, jr., whose warehouses at Seward, Utica and Ulysses are stocked to repletion with the leading lines of machinery, implements, vehicles, etc., and whose thorough business ways, extensive sales and growing command of the field, stamp him as a master in trade. Mr. Babson hails from the old Bay State, is an active, intelligent and influential worker for the public schools and every commendable local enterprise, holds a high position in the community and is greatly pleased with Seward county.

C. N. Emilton is also driving a good trade in farm implements and machinery. He is a careful, conservative dealer, has a liberal and growing patronage, and speaks in high praise of the county and people.

Mr. A. H. Totten leads the drug business of the city with an elegant, finely appointed and heavily stocked establishment, which, from end to end is an embodiment of neatness and order and would honor a metropolis. Mr. Totten is successor to E. K. Dumbach, one of the oldest druggists in this region, was trained to the business in Chicago, is an accomplished druggist and chemist and a live, progressive young merchant, well up in the best modern methods. He is much pleased with the city, has made liberal investments here, and is a capital acquisition to the social and business community.

So, too, is Mr. Charles S. Alling, an intelligent and clear-sighted young New Yorker, who is making a marked business success in news, books, stationery, periodicals and kindred stocks. Mr. Alling, who has a pretty farm near the city, and is in many ways identifying himself with the country and people, expresses much pleasure of his four year residence here. He belongs to a class of sterling and progressive young eastern men who are attracted to Nebraska by its superior material and commercial advantages, and whose presence, work and influence are a compliment to any country.

W. H. Walker leads the trade in lumber and builders' material with large and well classified stocks at both Seward and Utica yards. He is a bright, ambitious, successful business man of marked enterprise and public spirit, is backed by ample means, has the heaviest stocks and patronage of any lumberman in the county, hails from Illinois and pronounces Seward county the peer of any region in the west.

The magnitude of the grain trade of Seward is fairly indicated by the statement of J. C. Mullinger, the agent of T. W. Lowrey, the leading grain shipper of the county. Mr. Lowrey has an elevator of 30,000 bushels capacity at Seward, and has handled of the last year's crop 225,000 bushels of corn, 30,000 bushels of wheat and 25,000 bushels of oats. His shipments from the neighboring stations of Staplehurst and Tabor aggregate 700,000 bushels of corn and about 600,000 bushels of other grains. Other dealers are handling large quantities of grain at this and other points in the county, and the total export of last year's crop of corn alone, will exceed 1,500,000 bushels. Mr. Lowrey is also shipping hogs from this and the other stations named, has fifteen elevators on the B. & M. line, and, through the admirable management of Mr. Mullinger, has obtained a strong business footing in Seward county.

The milling interests of the city are in excellent hands. H. L. Boyes has reconstructed the well known Banner mills and equipped them with the latest flour-making machinery and is driving a large and prosperous custom and merchant trade. He is an active worker for the public schools, and one of the squarest men in the kingdom.

Captain J. S. Henderson's Seward County Mills, located two miles below the city on the Big Blue, are admirably equipped and driven to full capacity on custom and merchant work, for both of which there is a ready home demand. The Captain is an old timer here, hails from the Keystone State and is a strong man.

Hon. R. E. Dunphy, the popular Representative of this district in the State Senate, is driving a popular business in general blacksmithing, repairing, carriage and wagon making. Senator Dunphy was formerly engaged in farming here, hails from Wisconsin, is one of the representative, manly and growing young men of this region, and is thoroughly in love with the country.

Whitecomb & Williams lead the livery business of the city and county with expensive stables, a superior set of horses and general livery equipment, and are successful and extensive dealers in road, carriage and farm horses and mules. They began here with a small capital in 1876, have carried their work to large proportions, are among the most critical and accomplished horsemen in the country, take a strong hold in the advancement of the city of which Mr. Whitecomb is the popular young mayor, and are among the clear-sighted, influential business men of the community.

The York Nursery Company, of Fort Scott, Kas., one of the most extensive and respectable nursery concerns in America, established the headquarters of their northern branch here last year, and under the management of Mr. H. A. Johns, whose supervision extends over Nebraska, Iowa, Dakota and Minnesota, have carried their northern work up to splendid proportions, their sales in Seward county alone reaching 100,000 forest trees—mostly catalpae—25,000 fruit trees and a corresponding amount of small fruits and ornamental stock. Mr. Johns has made a brilliant and honorable record in the management of the northern branch of this great corporation, of which he is a member, and is about to establish branch nur-

series at Sioux City for the propagation of hardy stock for the northern portion of his territory—a plan which all Northern fruit growers will entertain with decided pleasure. Mr. Johns comes from Michigan and speaks of the fruit prospects of this region like a confident and appreciative man. Every line of local business embraces men of sterling commercial qualities, and is facilitated by the ample capital and liberal management of

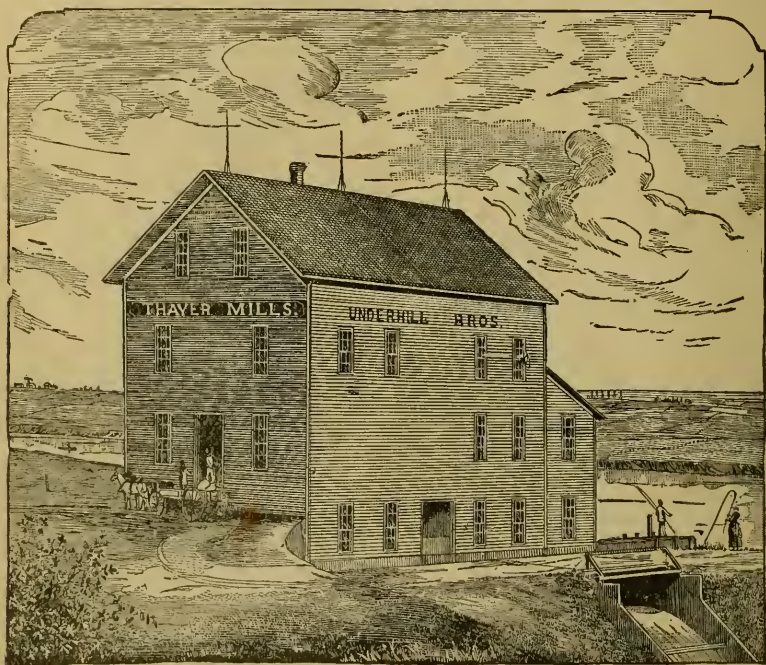
THE LOCAL BANKS.

The First National bank, organized in 1882 to succeed the old Seward County bank, has a cash capital of \$50,000, has already accumulated a large surplus fund and has the fortune of most admirable management at the hands of President S. C. Langworthy and Cashier T. E. Saunders, both men of ripe experience and acknowledged ability in banking. The vice-

ing a general banking business. He is also loaning money on real estate for Eastern parties, is an old-time lawyer here and a man of fine intelligence and ability. He has strong friends, a good patronage, a good stock of genuine western grit, and is building up a solid and prosperous business.

The State Bank of Nebraska is owned and run by Mr. John Cattle, a wealthy Englishman, and I hear that Claudius Jones, the veteran banker, for whom everything turns to gold, and whose capital and ability are equal to the founding and management of half a dozen strong banks, will return to the banking business this fall, in which event no rural town in Nebraska will be so well off for banking capital as Seward.

THE OFFICIAL AND PROFESSIONAL interests of the city and county are in capital



Thayer Mills, on Lincoln Creek.

president, Herman Diers, and the entire directory are among the solid men of the county. The current deposits run well above \$100,000, and it is safe to say that no banking house in the interior of the state is more strongly fortified in the popular confidence and esteem. Mr. Langworthy was formerly president of the Seward County bank, and is one of the strongest men in Seward county. Mr. Sanders was trained to the best ways of banking in the old State Bank of Nebraska, by Claudius Jones, the prince of Nebraska financiers, and knows the business as if he were born to it.

Mr. John N. Edwards opened the new Seward County bank here last fall and is transact-

ing hands. The board of county commissioners is made up of strong, practical, honest men. The county treasury is administered by Captain R. T. Cooper an old timer here and a gallant soldier of capital social qualities. Captain Cooper hails from Illinois, is a popular and efficient officer, likes the country and is one of the manliest of men. The other county officers are generally held in high esteem for their personal and administrative qualities.

The city and county bar is ably represented by T. L. & R. S. Norvall, both hard working, painstaking and successful lawyers of fine ability. Hon. T. L. Norvall of this firm has

recently been honored with the district judgeship and is making a capital judicial record.

D. C. McKillip is an able and influential lawyer of enviable character and standing and like the brothers Norvall, holds a commanding position in the legal fraternity of southern Nebraska. Ed. Crane is a young attorney of unusual brilliancy and fine social gifts. St. Clair & Anderson are a strong and growing legal firm, and I believe there are several other attorneys of good standing at this bar.

THE NEWSPAPERS

are squarely up to the dignity of their commercial and material surroundings. The Reporter, edited and published by F. G. Simmons, and the Blade edited and published by J. H. Betzer, are republican journals of decided ability and enterprise and worthy exponents of the political, social, and material interests of one of the richest and most prosperous counties in Nebraska.

Photographic art is admirably represented by Mr. W. D. Givens, a young enthusiastic and painstaking artist, who is in love with his work and carries it to the best levels by intelligent and appreciative devotion to the advanced literature and mechanism of this highest form of the picture-making art. The

HOTEL FACILITIES

of the city are exceptionally fine. The Windsor House is the largest and best appointed hostelry to be found in any town of this class west of the Missouri river, and in common with its admirable management by Mr. Wm. Clemmons, is eminently creditable to the city and county. The Commercial House is noteworthy for its excellent cuisine and the Grand Central is the popular resort for the farmers of the county.

THE CITY SCHOOLS

are among the very best in the state, both for general discipline and the excellent standard of scholarship attained in all grades, and have the fortune of enlightened and progressive management at the hands of a liberal and sensible school board and an efficient corps of instructors. The

REAL ESTATE

Interests of the city were never so prosperous as now. Improved and unimproved properties are steadily advancing and everything offered, from an outlet to the best improved property about the public square, goes on a quick market at strong figures. Rents are firm and every new home, shop, store and office among the many under construction this year, are engaged long in advance of completion. The rapid development of the country is giving strong impulse to building operations in the city, which has always been behind the country and will safely bear extension to double its present proportions.

THE REAL ESTATE MEN

have a capital field for their work and report unusual activity in all departments of trade. Mr. Lewis Moffitt the founder of the town and still the owner of large city and suburban interests, believes the town has a bright future and will steadily advance to 5,000 population. Many conservative men express equal confidence in the future of Seward, which for com-

mmercial solvency and solid material prosperity is behind no town of its class in the state. Hon. Edmund McIntyre of the well known real estate firm of McIntyre & Seeley quotes

LAND VALUES

in Seward county, all the way from \$10 to \$40 per acre, the wild lands running from \$10 to \$18 according to soils and location and improved farms from \$15 to \$40 per acre, the price being governed by soil, location and improvements. A few inferior wild tracts are in the market at less than quoted figures and there are many choice and finely improved farms near the towns that are held as high as \$50 per acre. A good number of fairly improved farms, without regard to location, have recently exchanged hands at \$25 to \$30 per acre. The prices above quoted show that

LANDS HAVE DOUBLED IN VALUE

since 1878—the date of my last visit to Seward county—and every indication points to a further advance of 50 to 75 per cent in the next four years. It is gratifying to note the steady and strong advances in land values without any perceptible speculative movement. Other and more vital and permanent causes have carried lands up to their present value and are certain to impel a steady appreciation until the average farm commands \$40 to \$50 and choice farms from \$60 to \$75 per acre, nor is such a consumation very far off. The average farm in Seward county would make

A PREMIUM FARM

in Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania or New England and readily command from \$100 to \$250 per acre according to the location. The intrinsic value of these farms for the production of corn, domestic grasses and fat cattle and pigs is very nearly double their present commercial value and nothing short of material desolation can stay a rapid advance to their essential value. The enormous production of wealth from a widely diversified system of farming, the successful introduction of all the domestic grasses, the rapid increase and improvement of live stock, the marked improvement in farm methods and the steady inflow of eastern capital and well-to-do eastern farmers are among the causes that make Seward county lands as current as gold and are surely advancing them to their relative value as compared with similar lands in the older states. Mr. McIntyre the honored president of the State Board of Agriculture, and one of the early homesteaders of the Blue valley whose judgment is authority in land matters, Mr. Claudius Jones whose real estate holdings in this county aggregate 5,000 acres, and many other gentlemen of excellent judgment, whose faith in a splendid outcome for Seward county agriculture has never faltered, and, indeed four-fifths of all the men I have interviewed in a careful tour of the county, fully attest my judgment on prospective land values and believe with me that there will probably never again come so favorable a time for investment in lands as now.

Mr. McIntyre has sold upwards of \$600,000 worth of railway and private lands in the last dozen years and has now a fine list of improved farms and several thousand acres of wild land in this and the neighboring counties

for sale at current prices and on terms to suit the views of all classes of purchasers. No man in the country is more familiar with land titles and soils, the status of local agriculture and the needs of eastern buyers than Mr. McIntyre. He came here from Vermont at an early day, has shared with the early settlers the trials and sacrifices of pioneering, never faltering in his faith of a glorious future for the country and from early to late, as a homestead settler and land agent of the B. & M. railroad company, as an active and influential worker for the county agricultural society and for progressive local husbandry, has done more for the settlement and development of Seward

County than any half dozen men within its borders. He has been for years an influential and inspiring member of the state board of agriculture and for the past two years its efficient president, working side by side with such men as ex-Governor Robert Furnas and Messrs Wheeler, Dunham, Nicodemus and others of the board in disinterested and efficient service for the agricultural advancement of Nebraska. Mr. McIntyre has won an enviable position in Seward county and Nebraska by virtue of his positive convictions, courage, manliness of character, candor and sagacity. The trusted agent of a great corporation, he has yet been a faithful friend of the people and no man in Seward county stands higher in the popular confidence to-day than Edmund McIntyre. Half a dozen years ago Mr. Mc-

Intyre formed an alliance with Mr. James E. Seeley, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., for the loaning of eastern capital on unincumbered real estate and under the firm name of McIntyre & Seeley have been doing an extensive loan business in this and the contiguous counties. They have never hesitated to guarantee the security for their loans, and by their careful and conservative policy have secured as fine a line of loans as any agency in the west. No part of the western country offers ampler security to money lenders nor has any loan agency of my knowledge higher credit and character than that of McIntyre & Seeley, which through the senior member at Seward



Cattle Ranch of F. W. Upton & Bro., on the West Blue.

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represents the wants and interests of the borrowers and through Mr. Seeley at Poughkeepsie, the legitimate interests of lenders.

Lewis Moffitt has a good list of unimproved city lots for sale at very reasonable figures and will cheerfully answer all enquiries concerning them.

W. T. Olmstead has a good list of wild lands and improved farms for sale at current prices and will be pleased to answer all questions concerning them. He has also complete abstracts of all the titles in the county and will furnish abstracts, pay taxes for non-residents and attend to every branch of real estate work. Mr. Olmstead is a New Yorker, an old timer here and like his neighbor Moffitt, a square manly man. An outline of the representative

FARMS AND FARMERS

tributary to Seward, will be of interest to the eastern reader as indicative of the extent, character and improvements of the estates, the methods by which they are handled, the results attained and the judgment of the farmers as to the relative merits of Seward county as a farm country. The suburban

RIVERSIDE

farm of James A. Brown, 100 acres in extent, lies in the bottoms of the Big Blue and Lincoln creeks, has twenty acres of native timber, a pretty home and excellent out buildings, is well fenced by barbed wire, strung on the long columns of stately cottonwoods, and is further improved by rich timothy and clover meadows, wells, wind mills and finely watered and sheltered feed yards. Mr. Brown took this place as a homestead seventeen years ago, has improved it with his own hands till it looks like a great garden, is a thorough, practical intelligent and progressive farmer who gets two tons of hay, and from forty to eighty bushels of corn to the acre. He keeps sixty acres in plow, grazes forty cattle and feeds a cow load each of pigs and steers; runs a butter dairy of fifteen cows, is one of the most independent men in the county, has made every dollar out of this farm and is a capital man for the country. John Holliday's 160 acre

ASHLAND

farm on Lincoln creek, three miles northwest of Seward is well watered by the creek, has a pretty native grove of ash and is improved with a comfortable home, and wire and hedge fences. Mr. Holliday raised 2,500 bushels of wheat and 450 bushels of oats last year, besides doing much other work and marketing all his produce with his own hands and a single team. He keeps fifty pigs and a small herd of cattle, is an enterprising, go-ahead, prosperous young farmer, came here from Indiana four years ago with only a team of horses and with the proceeds of this year's crop can pay thirty dollar of his indebtedness and be sole owner of an estate worth at least \$4,500. Mr. Holliday is delighted with the country and is a capital acquisition to the good sized army of working young men who are making wealth for Seward county. The 240 acre,

BLUE RIVER FARM

of Wm. Gill lies in the valley and on the warm slopes of the Blue river, three miles northwest of the city and is a handsome estate, admirably watered and improved with fine hedge and wire fencing, superb clover and timothy meadows and blue grass pastures, pretty groves, a cozy cottage, good stables, sheds, feed yards, milk house and wind mill, and is devoted to mixed farming. Mr. Gill last year raised 5000 bushels of corn, 1000 bushels of oats and 100 bushels of wheat and got five tons of clover and timothy per acre from two cuttings. He grew 3000 bushels of potatoes from seven and one-half acres, his Mammoth Pearl variety yielding at the rate of 800 bushels to the acre. Among the attractions of

THE BLUE VALLEY HERD

of thoroughbred short horns led by the handsome Booth bull Huluck, whose sire was the well known prize bull Rokeby, is, 512, and of pure Booth lineage, and whose dam was the

Queen of Indiana (16,094). Among the noteworthy animals of this herd are "Forget me Not," a model milk and stock cow; the model young helper, Queen of Seward, (a mother at eighteen months of age), and a group of superior young heifers and calves. Mr. Gill has also a number of the high grades and is breeding an excellent style of Poland-China pigs. He is one of the best breeders and most critical judges of short horns in Nebraska, takes a warm working interest in advanced and progressive husbandry, is a successful farmer and a hospitable, broad-breasted, manly Englishman, whose ten years in Seward county have given him high esteem for the country and a host of warm friends.

"MAYFIELD,"

the home and 100 acre farm of Capt. John Seals, another of these large-hearted and genial Englishmen, lies a mile to the northward of Seward, and with its handsome home, substantial and convenient barns, stables, sheds, corrals, carriage house, granary, cribs, feed yards, young groves and meadows, its warm slopes and charming valley views, is a home fit for a baron. Capt. Seals has transformed this place from a beautiful wilderness to a delightful country home in the last three years, and is stocking it with thoroughbred and high grade short horns, draught horses and other good stock. He is an old merchant shipmaster, has sailed in all seas, is a thorough cosmopolite of liberal intelligence and fortune, and most genial social nature, and after years of world-wide travel, compliments Seward county by liberal investments and the foundation of a permanent home from which he dispenses a gracious and generous hospitality. Two miles further north is the 400 acre

WALNUT GROVE

stock farm and home of True & Brown. It is a handsome tract of high prairie, watered with wells run by wind mills and improved with a pleasant home, sheltering groves, good fences and convenient sheds and feed yards. The proprietors came from Illinois four years ago, with liberal experience in cattle feeding, and have doubled their capital here in the same industry. They grow liberal crops of corn and oats, feed from 150 to 240 heavy steers and 300 pigs, annually consuming 18,000 to 20,000 bushels of corn, and are among the most discriminating and successful feeders in the county. They express a decided preference for this country over Illinois, both for general farming and feeding, are gentlemen of large intelligence, liberal worldly experience and engaging social qualities, and are a capital acquisition to the social and industrial forces of the county. Hon. D. J. Brown represents Seward county in the late Legislature with universal acceptance, and is a strong and growing man. Mr. S. W. True is a man whom everybody delights to honor, and is himself delighted with the country.

Four miles north of Seward in the midst of a rich rolling prairie is the 600 acre

GRONELAND

farm of Hon. Wm. Hickman. It is fully improved with a pleasant tree-embowered home, substantial outbuildings, wells and wind mills, feed yards, corrals, stock scales, willow hedges,

handsome groves, fruitful orchards, clover and timothy meadows and blue grass lawns. Mr. Hickman grows about 3,000 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of oats and 100 tons of hay and millet, and feeds from sixty to ninety heavy steers and from 200 to 400 prime pigs. He came here from Iowa in 1868, with about \$2,000 capital, has now an estate worth \$15,000 and believes there is no finer country than Seward county. Mr. Hickman has twice worthily represented his county in the state legislature and is one of the strong men of this region. Henry Bedford's 1,280 acre

GRASSLAND

farm half a dozen miles north of Seward is finely watered by Plum creek and improved with a handsome home, good barns, stables, feed yards, tenant houses, groves, orchards, wells and wind mills and 120 acres of fine clover and timothy meadow and pasture. Mr. Bedford last year raised 18,000 bushels of corn yielding fifty-five bushels to the acre, 4,500 bushels of oats, 250 bushels of wheat and 400 tons of hay and millet. He keeps 200 head of high grade stock cattle, half of which are breeding cows and heifers and feeds a car load of steers and 200 Berkshire pigs. He has improved this beautiful estate from a wild prairie in the last ten years, has made the bulk of an ample fortune out Seward of county soil, is one of the most thorough and successful farmers in the county, pays as he goes, and makes his carefully footed balance sheets show a yearly net gain of \$3,600, to \$6,200. Mr. Bedford is an Englishman of strong practical sense, and fine executive gifts, has an estate fit for a prince of the realm and after a recent visit to England and a careful inspection of its soils and farm interests, confidently asserts that for natural wealth of soil and really profitable farming, Seward county is 300 per cent in advance of England. E. M. Hickman's 560 acre

FAIRVIEW STOCK FARM.

lies in the same neighborhood and is well improved with buildings, groves, orchards, wells, wind mills, farm scales, clover and timothy meadows &c. Mr. Hickman grows heavy crops, keeps 150 high grade cattle and a choice herd of thoroughbred short horns, is a successful breeder of pure Poland Chinas, feeds four car loads of steers and pigs, came here from Indiana fourteen years ago with \$1,000, and has now an estate worth \$17,000. He is one of the strong men of this region and swears by Seward county.

PURINTON'S RANCH

the handsome 660 acre stock farm of J. D. Purinton lies four miles northeast of town and is improved by a fine home, large barn, granary, scales, feed yards, corrals, orchards, wells and wind mills. Mr. Purinton raised 4,000 bushels of corn, 750 bushels of oats and 250 bushels of rye last year. He keeps about 100 head of high grade cattle, feeds about sixty steers and 100 pigs, has a flock of 250 high grade cotswolds that yield a clip of ten pounds per capita, keeps a small herd of pure bred short horns, hails from the land of "wooden nutmegs" and is one of the thorough, driving successful men of the county. Mr. Purinton purchased this farm in the wild state, four years ago, at \$8 per acre and can now take an

advance of 300 per cent on his entire purchase. He is greatly pleased with the country and is a valuable acquisition to the stock growing community. Two miles north of Purinton's Ranch is the 560 acre

PLUM CREEK STOCK RANCH

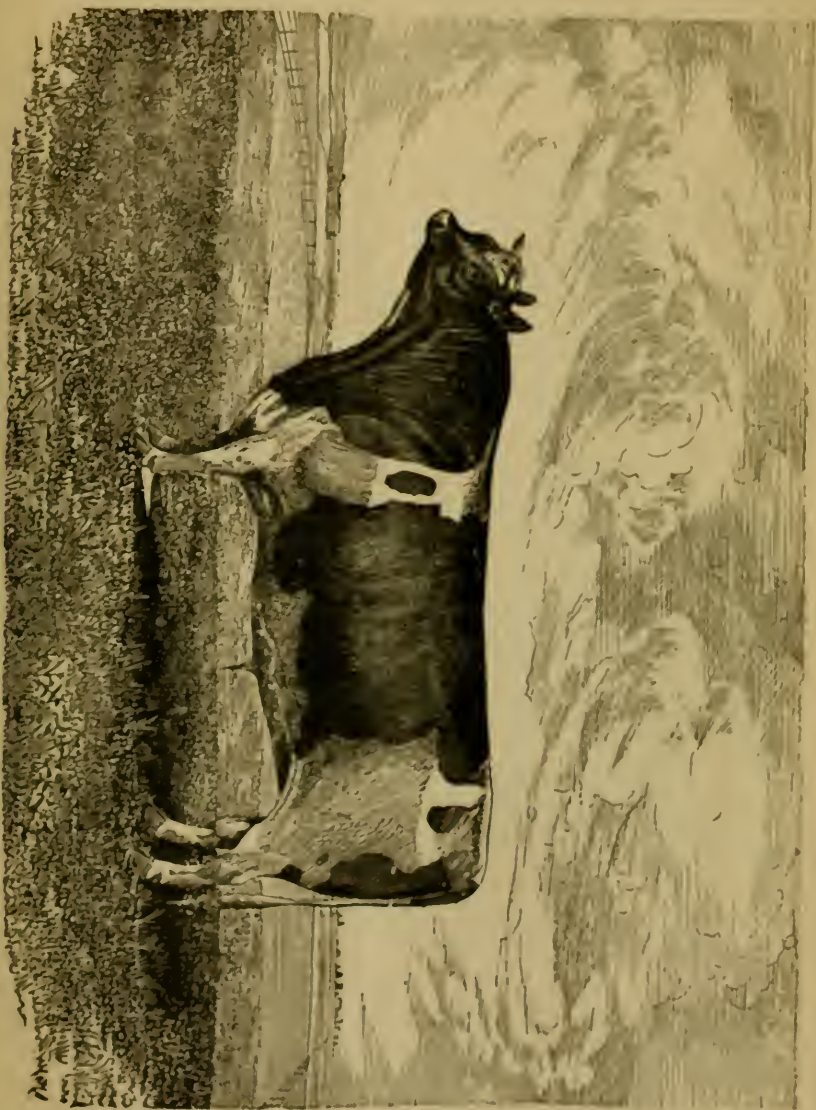
of Calvin J. Wright, an intelligent, level-headed, enterprising Hoosier who settled here three years ago. The farm is coursed by Plum creek, has 250 acres under plow, is improved by a fine home, convenient stables, granary, sheds, cribs and a farm work shop and by fine groves, orchards, vineyards and fences. Mr. Wright last year raised about 7,000 bushels of corn yielding forty to seventy bushels to the acre, 2,200 bushels of oats yielding sixty bushels and fair crops of rye and buckwheat. He is seeding his native pastures to blue grass, keeps 150 high grade cattle, among them forty breeding cows, sells \$1,200 worth of pure bred Berkshire and Poland pigs annually and may be set down as one of the model farmers of this region. He has invested \$10,000 in lands, buildings, and stock, transformed a half wild tract into a charming farm and home and can sell to-day for \$20,000. Mr. Wright has a model valley farm, is delighted with the country and is a capital acquisition to the social and farm community. Mr. T. N. Dunphy has a pretty 160 acre tract, mostly valley land, lying higher up Plum creek, that will make a choice little farm when properly improved. He resides in Seward, gives considerable attention to the breeding of pure Poland pigs, buys and sells stock, hails from Wisconsin and is greatly pleased with the country.

GREENFIELD.

the 200 acre farm and home of W. L. Pendell, lying four miles northeast of Seward, is note worthy as one of a group of half a dozen delightful table-land farms and for its rather remarkable corn production. Mr. Pendell grows 100 acres of corn, getting a yield of fifty to seventy bushels to the acre with unfailing regularity. He practices deep, fall plowing, plants early, cultivates close and clean, has not failed of a good corn crop during his nine years residence here and from his original capital of \$900, has made up an estate worth at least \$8,000, besides giving his sons a fair start. Mr. Pendell grows good crops of wheat and oats, but has made his money out of corn and pronounces Seward county, a superior corn country. He hails from West Virginia, has a pretty farm with a comfortable home and good outbuildings and is not only a representative corn-grower, but one of the squarest and manliest men that ever crossed the Missouri river. Half a mile south of Mr. Pendell, is D. B. Palmer's 320 acre

MAPLE GROVE

farm, improved with a pretty home, good sheds, stables and corrals, a good barn and self-feeding cribs, fruitful orchards, thrifty and elegant groves, fine hedges and good wells and wind mills. Mr. Palmer grows 5,000 bushels of corn, 600 bushels of oats, 150 bushels of wheat, some clover and timothy and 250 tons of native hay. He keeps 135 head of high grade stock cattle, feeds 100 steers averaging 1,600 lbs, and 200 prime pigs, has a flock of 750 high grade Merinos, averaging eight pounds per clipping, and has turned off \$10,000 worth of



"Siebren," an Imported Friesian Bull, Owned by Hon. Claudius Jones & Son, Seward.

surplus stock since January. He came here from the Western Reserve five years ago with \$3000, and has now an estate worth \$16,000. Mr. Palmer feeds cattle mainly for the European market, is one of the most thorough and successful farmers in Seward county and a born stockman; knows how to make money, is a strong, confident, self-commanding man and says he would not exchange this land, acre for acre for a choice farm in Western Reserve. Next on the east of Mr. Palmers place, is C. L. Lyon's 240 acre

MAPLE SIDE

farm. It is mainly the original homestead of Mr. Lyon, who settled here in 1863, and is improved with a pretty tree-embowered home set in ample blue grass lawns and delightfully envired with stately groves, green hedge rows and fruitful orchards and meadows. The farm is further improved with model hedge fences wells and wind mills, horse barns, stables, sheds, admirably sheltered feed yards, twenty-five acres of clover, timothy, blue grass and orchard grass and long lines of maple, ash and cottonwood trees. Mr. Lyon is a model farmer, has a model farm and last year raised 2,800 bushels of corn, 700 bushels of oats and 160 bushels of rye. He keeps thirty high grade cattle, milks a few cows, feeds a carload of prime pigs, handles his farm like a garden, has made up an estate worth at least \$7,000 from a beginning of \$400, is a driving man, does most of his farm work and thinks Seward county is quite as good a country as his native Illinois. Next on the south of Maple Side is

WEST VIEW

the 120 acre homestead of J. P. Losee. Mr. Losee settled here in 1869 and, like his neighbor Lyon, has planted groves, orchards, vineyards, small fruits and evergreens until "West View" has come to be a little Eden. It commands a full view of Seward and is one of the most inviting homesteads in the county. Mr. Losee is a keenly practical and successful horticulturalist, has a model orchard, and a pretty home, embowered in cedars and pines and surrounded by blue grass lawns, orchards and groves and flanked by long columns of stately trees. He is an intelligent and progressive farmer, takes a warm interest in the promotion of fairs, was the first secretary of the Seward county agricultural society and from a start of \$400, has made up a property worth at least \$4,000. Mr. Losee hails from New York, believes in variety farming and speaks of the country like an appreciative man. A mile north Mr. Losee is

EAST VIEW

the 160 acre homestead of Cyrus Fetterman, an enterprising and thrifty Buckeye, who settled here in 1868. Like the four last named farms, Eastview is a choice tract of table-land and is improved with a comfortable home, fine groves, good stables and cribs, wells and wind mill and a small creamery, (the first one in the county) Mr. Fetterman grows 3,500 bushels of corn, 450 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of wheat and 100 of rye. He keeps a dozen milch cows for butter making, has a small bunch of stock cattle, feeds forty pigs, raises a few colts, believes in mixed farming, is a

thoroughgoing, practical manly man, likes the country and from his original capital of \$125, has accumulated real and personal estate worth at least \$5,000. Mr. Fetterman is an excellent farmer, grows more than average crops and speaks in high terms of the country.

W. A. Brokaw's

LONGVIEW

farm three miles southeast of Seward, lies on the high divide and commands a charming view of Seward and Milford, the railway, river and valley and is a model estate, improved with a handsome home good outbuildings and fences and in successfully devoted to mixed farming. Mr. Brokaw is a deep and thorough cultivator grows unusually heavy crops of corn and small grains, is a liberal feeder of prime pigs, a man of all work and no play, has increased the capital he brought with him by at least 250 per cent, is delighted with the country and is every inch a live, progressive representative farmer. Capt J. S. Henderson's 250 acre

VALLEY STOCK FARM

two miles below Seward, on the Big Blue is one of the best stock farms in the county. It is watered by the Blue, abounds in fine pasture and natural stock shelter and in connection with the Seward county mills, which are located on the premises, is admirably suited to breeding, and feeding, both of which are successfully handled by the enterprising proprietor. Capt. Henderson annually feeds six car loads of heavy steers and pigs and has recently brought to the farm a fine herd of thoroughbred short horns, representing several popular families, and will make a specialty of this line of breeding. He is also breeding road and turf horses and is one of the most enterprising business and stock men in the county. Two miles lower down the river and valley is Job T. Reynolds 500 acre

ELMWOOD

farm a solid body of bottom land embracing a mile and a half of river line and 300 acres of ash, elm, oak and walnut timber. Mr. Reynolds has thirty acres in timothy and clover meadow, puts up sixty to eighty tons of domestic hay, grows about 6,000 bushels of corn, yielding thirty-five to eighty bushels per acre and fair crops of rye and barley. He feeds seventy-five to 125 pigs and keeps fair herds of stock cattle horses and mules. Mr. Reynolds came here with the early settlers in 1863 without a dollar and has now an estate worth \$25,000, every dollar of which has been made out of Seward county soil and grasses. He owes no man, has a farm to be proud of, is thrifty and honorable, enjoys the respect of his neighbors, represents the independent kingdom of Jersey and holds that there is no finer country than the Blue valley. The 400 acre

ENGLEWOOD

farm and home of Lewis Moffitt adjoining the town site of Seward is worthy of note for its favorable location, its charming tree-enviored home, large and thrifty native groves of walnut, box elder, oak, ash, elm and kindred woods, substantial plank fencing and other improvements. It is watered by Plum creek and mainly devoted to grain growing by tenants, the last years crops embracing 13,000 bushels

of corn from 200 acres, 1,400 bushels of oats from twenty-seven acres and 700 bushels of wheat. Mr. Moffitt founded Seward in 1868, has expended a handsome fortune in public gifts for its advancement and from one of the finest homes in the Blue valley, has watched, with honest pride, its steady growth to its present high estate. He has a model farm worth \$20,000, keeps a liberal bank account, owns some valuable city property, has made the bulk of a good fortune here in the last fifteen years, has a high estimate of the country and

vated grain. Mr. Dunbaugh is an old and successful Seward drug merchant and is proving a capital farmer whose premises would honor the best farm districts in Ohio or New York. He is moreover, a man of excellent heart, brain and public spirit and speaks in glowing terms of Seward county.

WOODLAWN,

the 100 acre suburban farm of R. Sampson is a beautiful place lying on the northwestern side of the town and improved with fine groves, and hedges and fair buildings. It is mainly



High School, Seward.

people and is one of the strong representative men of the city and county. S. W. Dunbaugh's

GLEN EDEN

is a model suburban farm and home, and has no superior among the small farms of the county. Like Englewood, it lies in the warm slopes of Plum creek, is admirably watered by the creek and living springs and wells and superbly fenced with Bois d' Arc hedges. Among the attractions are a pretty home set in blue grass lawns and environed with model groves, orchards, fruit yards and vineyards; a fine barn and other neat and convenient out buildings; strong rich clover and timothy meadows, and finely laid grain fields; a delightful deep shaded glen coursed by the clear winding creek and strong crops of well culti-

devoted to corn, wheat, oats barley and rye and in common with another farm of equal extent, owned by Mr. Sampson, is handled by tenants. The owner is an Illinois man, has made a fine property here in the last fifteen years and thinks there is no country like Seward county, Levi Hafer's 400 acre

WALNUT HILL.

farm and home lies upon a beautiful divide three miles west of Seward overlooking the town railway and valley and is not worthy for its pretty home, well shaded lawn, fine groves of walnut, box elder, ash, maple, cedar and cottonwood; its long lines of walnut trees, substantial barns, cribs, stables, sheds and feed yards; its fruitful young orchards, admirably laid grain fields, pastures and meadows and substantial hedge and wire fencing. Mr. Hafer

has sixty acres in clover and timothy which yields an average of two tons per acre; grows about 7,000 bushels of corn, from 1,000 to 1,500 bushels of oats; from 200 to 300 bushels each of wheat barley and rye and a fair crop of buckwheat. His crops are well handled and give more than the average yield. He keeps a good string of horses, breeds his mares and fillies to Rogy's imported Percherons, keeps seventy high grade cattle and a few thoroughbred short horns and usually puts about \$100 worth of prime fat Poland Chinas on the market each month of the year. Mr. Hafer came here from Pennsylvania fifteen years ago with \$1100, has now real estate worth \$13,000 and could twice pay his debts out of his personal property. He owns an estate which in old Lancaster would readily command \$250 per acre as the premium farm; is a capital farmer, a thorough driving worker and good manager, is growing rich out of a well managed farm and knows exactly what he is talking about when he says there is no finer country than Seward county.

Emory L. Pendell has a handsome 200 acre farm, five miles west of Seward which he purchased of the railway company three years ago and has changed from a wild prairie into beautiful grain fields in two years. It is improved with excellent fences, a pretty cottage and barn, 3000 young forest trees and a young orchard. He harvested 2500 bushels of corn, 280 bushels of oats last year and did a large amount of other farm work without hired help; finds it easy to meet the payments on his land out of his surplus crops. Like his father Mr. W. L. Pendell, he is a successful corn grower, feeds a few pigs, is a thrifty young farmer, speaks well of his neighbors and the country and is bound to grow rich.

A mile to the south of Walnut Hill, four miles southwest of Seward and in full view of the town is

WALWORTH GRANGE

the home and 240 acre farm of W. M. Redford the enterprising and honored president of the Seward county agricultural society. It is a fine tract of high undulating prairie which Mr. Redford purchased four years ago in the wild state and has improved with a fine home, a valuable basement barn, good sheds, stable and feed yards, wells and wind mills, bluegrass lawns, young orchards, groves, vineyards and a rich showing of small fruits; long lines of shade trees and hedges and a good acreage of domestic meadow. There is no more systematic, thorough and progressive farmer in the county than Mr. Redford whose deep seasonable and rotative culture gives him splendid results. His last years crops embraced 3,000 bushels of corn, 240 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of barley from five acres, 180 bushels of flax and 500 bushels of oats from ten acres. He keeps about forty high grade cattle, breeds to a handsome young London bull, bred by Mr. Daniell, and is a very successful breeder of model Poland pigs of which he annually sells about 100. A good string of horses are kept on the farm, which, from end to end, bears the impress of a master in husbandry. Mr. Redford came here from Walworth county, Wis., four years ago, has already increased his capital 250 per cent while

turning a wild prairie into a veritable garden, is a broad gauge map of sterling qualities and thinks there is no better country than Seward county. In the near neighborhood of Walworth Grange and upon a high divide commanding a fine view of Seward and the Blue valley is Morris Underhill's 160 acre

PLEASANTVIEW

farm. It is a handsome body of high prairie, commands a fine view of the city and valley and is improved with a pretty new home, good stables, feed yards wire fences admirable planned water-works and fine young orchards and groves. Mr. Underhill came here empty handed with the early homesteaders, lived in the typical pioneer sod house, worked hard, raised fine crops of wheat, rye, oats and corn and has now a good herd of high grade cattle, a good string of horses and a superior stock of pigs, of which he feeds from fifty to 100. He is a thorough and enterprising farmer, grows excellent crops, believes in mixed farming, has a property worth \$5,000 or \$6,000, swears by Seward county and is one of her strong, thrifty, honorable men. Five miles west of Seward, on the crown of the divide is located

LLETTYREOS

the home and 880 acre estate of John Cattle, Jr. It derives its name from the old Welch home of Mrs. Cattle which signifies "the home of the nightingale," is one of the handsomest country places in Seward county, commanding inspiring views of Seward, the Blue valley and the neighboring village of Tamora and is improved with a charming cottage, bluegrass lawns, groves of cedar, box elder, ash, walnut and cottonwood; well cultivated orchards gardens and fruit yards; fine barns, sheds, stables, feed yards, wells, wind mills, and stock scales, several miles of superior wire and plank fencing and 170 acres of strong clover and timothy meadow and pasture. Mr. Cattle keeps a herd of 180 high grade cattle and feeds from seventy to 100 prime steers and 150 pigs. He grows 25,000 bushels of corn and 1,000 bushels of oats, puts up 200 tons of hay and is a thorough and systematic farmer. Mr. Cattle is a live hospitable progressive young Englishman of ample means and liberal views and holds Seward county in high esteem. Mr. A. J. Williams 160 acre

CEDAR LAWN

farm lies in the near neighborhood of Mr. Cattle, a little to the southwest of Tamora and is improved with a pleasant home, deep-shaded cedar lawns, thrifty groves strong willow wind breaks, good barns, stables, stock scales, well, wind mill and young orchards. His last years crops embraced 4,000 bushels of corn, 1,200 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of rye and a fine field of volunteer wheat. He feeds thirty to seventy good pigs, keeps a small herd of cattle, has an exceptionally pretty farm, is an intelligent and liberal minded man and expresses a high opinion of the country. Mr. Williams came here from Iowa with the homesteaders of 1869, empty handed and has now an estate worth \$5,500. The 320 acre

OCCIDENTAL STOCK FARM

of Allen Price, lying five miles southwest o

Seward, is a handsome and fertile tract of high rolling prairie which the owner is now improving with a fine home, young orchards, groves, wire fences, wells, wind mills, feed yards and all the needed accompaniments to a first class stock farm. Mr. Price is a native of Georgia and came here from Saline county, Mo., in 1872, with a capital of only \$500. After a few seasons of unsuccessful wheat farming in which he lost his little investment, he turned his attention to corn and stock farming in which he has been eminently successful, and which in the judgement of his neighbors has brought him personal and real estate worth from \$12,000 to \$14,000. He has always had faith in Seward county and expresses the belief that for wealth of soil and general farm advantages, it is every whit as rich and desirable as the famous "hemp land" districts of Saline and Lafayette counties in Missouri. Mr. Price feeds 100 prime steers and from 200 to 400 pigs, annually raising and buying for this purpose, from 12,000 to 15,000 bushels of corn, the feeding of which brings him a net revenue of \$3,000 to \$4,000. He is a born stock man and believes this the best stock feeding country in the west. I am pleased to quote Mr. Price's good opinions of the country and people because he is a man well and favorably known for his cautious and conservative temper, excellent judgement, character and credit and liberal public spirit. In the near neighborhood is Mr. C. C. Jones' 160 acre

FRUITLAND

farm and home, also a commanding tract of rich elevated prairie which the owner has improved with a charming home, good outbuildings, large and fruitful orchards and vineyards, pretty blue grass lawns and elegant groves and fruit yards until it is fit for the "garden of the gods." Mr. Jones came here from Ohio a dozen years ago with only a plug team, has now a landed and personal estate worth \$10,000 and has made it out of the soil. He has upon this farm the well known "Centre Nursery," well stocked with fruit and ornamental trees, is a successful grower of apples, cherries, plums, grapes and small fruits and says any careful and thrifty man can grow plenty of fruit in Seward county. He grows from thirty to fifty acres of broom corn getting a net revenue of \$25 to \$38 per acre, raises strong crops of corn and oats, feeds 140 prime Poland pigs, is a tidy and thorough farmer of excellent character and standing, and swears by Seward county.

Nine miles southwest of Seward, on the crown of the high prairie, is

FAIRMONT.

the 320 acre farm of Nicholas Wullenwaber, a level-headed German who, in half a dozen years has improved his farm with a nice home, fine barn, wind mills, wells and water works, perfect hedges, elegant groves, fine orchards and domestic meadows until it has the appearance of an old and prosperous country home. Mr. Wullenwaber grows from 3,000 to 4,000 bushels of corn, from 400 to 700 bushels of oats and a field of rye, keeps a herd of forty high grade cattle, milks ten cows, feeds a car load of heavy Poland pigs, is breeding a good line of Percheron and Clydesdale horses,

grows more than average crops and is one of the neatest and best farmers in the county. He is a live, thrifty, progressive farmer, has an estate worth \$10,000 most of which he has made on the spot and thinks there is no better country than Seward county. Near by Fairmont is W. Q. Dickinson's 400 acre

DANVERS FARM

which the owner has mainly improved in the last four years. It is a fine tract of graceful prairie, improved with a cozy home, a young orchard, fair stables, cribs and feed yards and good fences. Mr. Dickinson grows from 4000 to 5000 bushels of corn, 800 bushels of oats, 400 bushels of rye and a fair crop of wheat and flax and keeps thirty-five head of cattle and a few pigs. He is a live driving worker, does all his farm work with the aid of one hired hand and two teams, and from an investment of \$1,000 has in four years acquired an estate worth fully \$9,000. Mr. Dickinson hails from McLean county, Ill., is one of the representative young farmers of the county and thinks it a royal country.

Two miles west of Danvers farm is

SWANSEY PARK

the home and 360 acre stock farm of Joshua Griffin. It is mainly smooth prairie of which 240 acres are in plow and the balance native pasture and meadow. The farm is improved with a comfortable home, good stables, sheds, cribs, granaries, feed yards and a fine hog house, ample groves, a thrifty orchard, excellent fences and superior water works supplied by wells and wind mills. Mr. Griffin grows about 5,000 bushels of corn, 500 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of barley and 300 of flax seed and feeds all his grain upon the farm. He keeps forty high grade cattle and breeds to thoroughbred short horns. His

SWANSEY PARK HERD

of pure Poland-Chinas, bred mainly from Bryants Princeton, Ill., stock, largely represents the famous prize Centennial stock and embraces about 140 animals, many of which are models of their race and among the very best I have seen in the west. Mr. Griffin is not only a successful and thoroughly honorable breeder of pure Polands, but is an excellent farmer and from an investment of \$2,000 made here within the last ten years has now a handsome estate worth \$8,000 or \$9,000. He is a Marylander of genial social temper, liberal views and generous hospitality, whose early good opinion of Seward county has been strengthened by years of honorable and successful endeavor at Swansey Park. Lucian C. Johnston's 400 acre

BLUE GRASS RIDGE

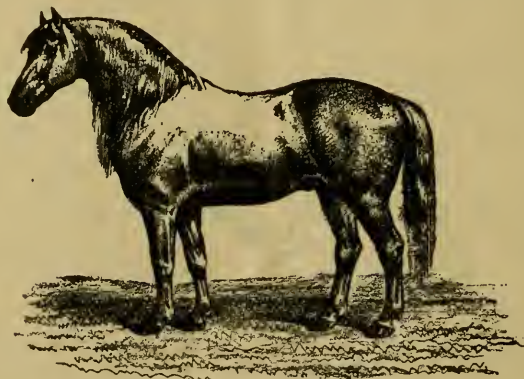
stock farm lies near by Mr. Griffin's place and is a choice body of high prairie with 200 acres in cultivation and the balance in native pasture and meadow. It is improved with forty acres of superior clover and timothy meadow and some fine patches of blue grass and white clover, a remarkably fine exhibit of stately cottonwood and walnut groves and wind-breaks, well shaded feed lots and corrals, ample and convenient stock sheds, excellent water works, good orchards and a comfortable home. Mr. Johnston grows about 2,500 bushels of corn, 800

bushels of oats, 400 bushels of rye and 150 bushels of flaxseed, puts up eighty tons of hay keeps seventy head of cattle, including a few pure short horns, and 500 Merino-Cotswold sheep that average a clip of eight pounds. He feeds from 100 to 200 pigs, keeps a superior Kentucky bred jack, owns one of the very best farms in his district, is a capital stockman and a wide awake and successful farmer. Mr. Johnston came here from Illinois four years ago with only a single team, has now personal and real property worth \$8,000 or \$9,000 and pronounces Seward county the banner country. Three miles northwest of Mr. Johnston's farm and five miles southeast of Utica, is A. W. Blain's model 150 acre

SHENANDOAH FARM

abounding in warm slopes and improved with a fine residence and corresponding barns, sheds, stables, feed yards, groves, water works, young orchards and hedges. Mr. Blain grows 2,500 bushels of corn averaging forty to sixty bushels, 200 bushels of wheat, 400 and 500 bushels of

importation of pure Percheron horses in 1874, signaling his maiden effort in this line with the purchase and importation of the famous Duc de Chartres No 169 P. N. S. B. for Rogy & Trimble of Walnut, Illinois. This superb horse, a cut of which is herewith given, was winner of the First Prize Grand Gold Medal and 600 francs in "the four year old and over" class at the great Concours Regional of Alencon, Orne, in 1873, beating the exhibits of over twenty of the best breeders of France, among the animals on exhibition being Fardonets "Vidocq" a horse not unknown to American fame. Mr. Rogy has since made several importations, among them his first stud for the Pacific Farm stables in 1881, including the dapple-gray stallion Vigoreaux, weighing 1,550 pounds; Clinchant, a dapple-gray of the same weight; Corbeau, a fine type of the pure Percheron post horse and Bai Bijou a brown post horse of 1,300 pounds weight, all stallions of exceptional personal merit, and brought here on account of their especial fitness for crossing with American stock. Among Mr. Rogy's



"Duke of Chartres," a Famous Percheron Prize Winner, Imported by A. Rogy.

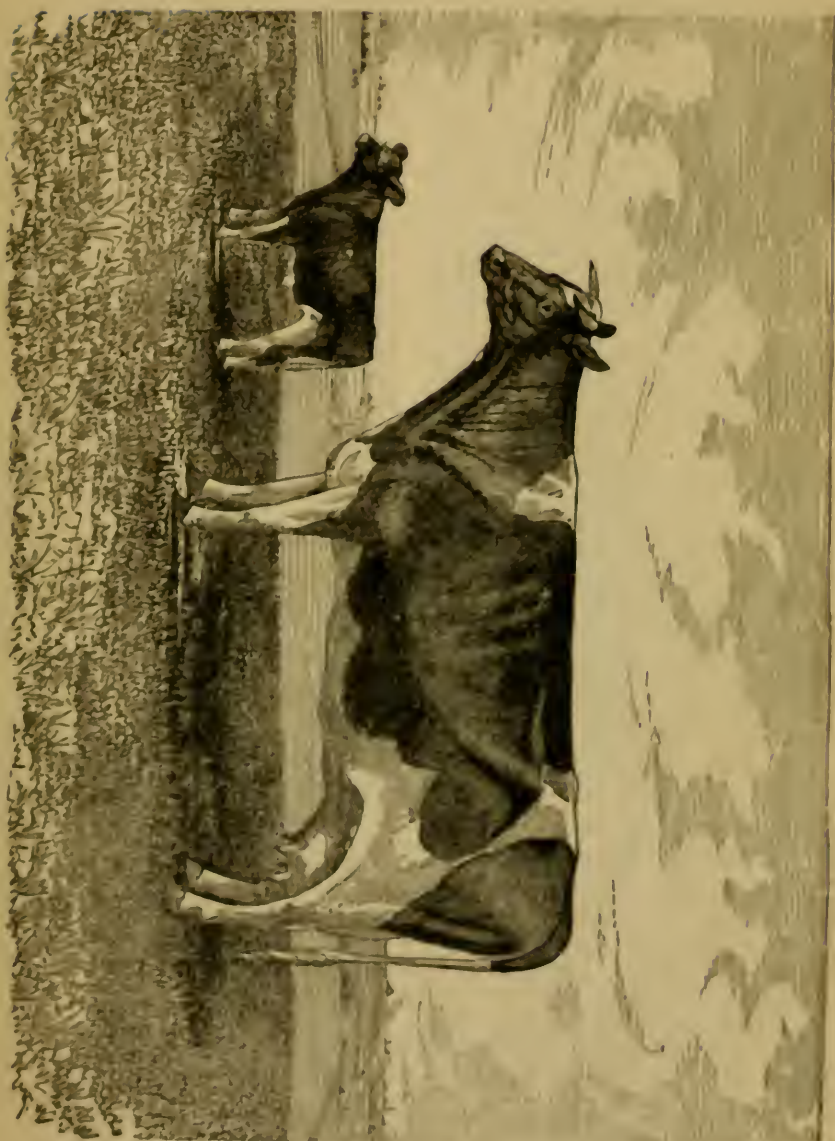
oats and good crops of barley and rye, feeds a car load of choice Poland pigs, keeps thirty high grade cattle and is one of the neatest and thriftiest farmers in the country. He came here from Saline county, Mo., nine years ago, with about \$1,000, has now an estate worth \$6,000, and though a man of candid, conservative nature, holds that there is no better country, than Seward county. One of the first attractions of Seward county is Mr. A. Rogy's

PACIFIC FARM

and stud of pure Percheron horses located one mile west of Seward in the broad bottom lands at the junction of Lincoln creek with the Big Blue. The farm is 320 acres in extent, as fair and fertile as a Flemish garden and was purchased in 1881 by Mr. Rogy, who has since improved it with a capacious, handsome and convenient horse barn and stables, a good tenant house, ample water works and good fences. The owner is gradually putting the farm under thorough cultivation and will stock it with domestic grasses. Mr. Rogy began the

second importation to Seward, was Senator Seward a large and superior chestnut horse; the gray horse Aimean weighing 1,750 lbs. Merope, a superb gray of 1,650 pounds and Montmorency a roan of 1,800 pounds weight. Merope was a prize winner of note in the Administration of the National studs, taking among others a special prize from the Agricultural Society of Verolus, on condition that he remain another season in the district for breeding uses. Le Dorax a 1,700 lb. gray horse came in the same importation which was made in 1882.

Agricole a gray stallion of great merit, weighing 1,800 lbs. and now in the Pacific Farm stud, was one of Mr. Rogy's early importations to Iowa. Vulcan, a handsome black 1800 pound horse, now standing at Harvard, Neb., is one of the early Illinois importations of Mr. Rogy who was the first man in this portion of the west, to cross the Percheron with the broncho of the plains and who has now at Pacific Farm some very fine colts from such



"Gerbens," an Imported Friesian Cow, Owned by Claudius Jones & Son, Seward.

crossings. In addition to the several importations of Percheron stallions mentioned, Mr. Rogy imported fourteen head of Dutch Friesian (Holsteins) cattle and I am informed is now on the way with a new importation of Dutch cattle and a good number of the best Percheron stallions and mares that could be obtained in France. Mr. Rogy has visited all the principal stables of Europe, is personally familiar with every Percheron stable, breeder and breeding district of note in France, has critical knowledge of the history and tribal characteristics of the Percheron race, and is withal a keenly discriminating and conscientious breeder whose facilities for the work he has so successfully prosecuted for the last nine years, are not excelled by those of any breeder and importer of Percherons in America. The demand for superior Percherons in Nebraska is growing with the growth of the country and Mr. Rogy's stables at Pacific Farm, now and hereafter, will be amply stocked with the best types of this noble race. The founding and successful management of this stock importing and breeding enterprise, together with the comprehensive plans of the spirited owner for its enlargement, are a compliment to Seward county and Nebraska. Another of these superb stock breeding estates is the 900 acre

PRAIRIE LAWN

farm and home of Hon. Claudius Jones lying on the northeastern border of the town. It is as splendid a body of graceful and fertile prairie as can be found between Chicago and the mountains and is improved with an elegant home, extensive stock barns, stables, sheds, feed yards, stock scales, water works and feed mills, the whole costing about \$14,000. This noble estate is admirably watered by wells with wind mills and spring brooks, is finely fenced with hedge and wire and besides the well cultivated grain fields embraces 200 acres of clover and timothy meadow and blue grass pasture. Mr. Jones "Oakdale Farm" lying upon oak creek in the northeast part of the county, is also a handsome tract, well watered by the creek and improved with large barns and other accompaniments to a prime stock farm. Mr. Jones has 5,000 acres of choice land in this county and holds that the average Seward county farm is worth \$40 per acre and will soon enough command \$60 and \$75 per acre. He has 2,200 acres in cultivation, cuts 1,200 tons of hay, grows 18,000 bushels of corn, 3,500 bushels of oats and 2,000 bushels of barley, part of the work being done by tenants, has a herd of 600 cattle, mainly high grade short horns, and feeds 500 prime pigs. Mr. Jones

PRAIRIE LAWN HERD

of short horns numbering about forty animals representing the Princess Arabella, Roan, Romania and other excellent families, embraces many members of fine style and decided personal merit, but the real attraction of the farm is

A NOTABLE HERD

of Dutch Friesian (Holstein) cattle, fifteen of which were purchased in Friesland by Mr. A. Rogy in 1881. Later Mr. Jones purchased a half interest in the herd which was imported "Prairie Lawn" by Jones & Rogy in 1882. Mr.

Jones became sole owner of the herd by a later purchase of Mr. Rogy's interest and with the calves dropped the present season, has now a herd of eighteen thoroughbred Friesians that will well compare with any importation of this race of cattle ever brought to the western country. Nine of the cows were purchased of Hon. K. N. Kuperus, one of the most successful and honorable breeders in Friesland, and represent a high order of excellence both for style and milking qualities. At the head of this noble herd is the three year old bull Siebren, bred by S. J. Wiersma of Marsum, West Friesland. The animal is a fine type of the pure bred Friesian and through his sire Klass, and his dam Janke, has a proud lineage. He is evenly variegated in color, has a superior escutcheon and judged by the standard of excellence adopted by the American association of breeders of pure Friesians, presents an unusual number of the finer points of the typical Dutch-Friesian conformation. As the accompanying cut shows, he is an animal of proud bearing and worthy of his place at the head of the herd.

Among the noteworthy females of the herd is Gerbens, a handsome three year old cow bred by Hon. K. N. Kuperus. As will be seen by the accompanying cut of herself and calf, this cow has unusually fine style, embracing in high measure the best traits of the typical milker. Her dominant color is black; her escutcheon exceptionally fine and her milking qualities well represented by a record of fifty-two pounds of milk per diem, for thirty successive days, when she was but two years old.

The model animal of the herd is Akke J. also bred by Mr. Kuperus from the well known dam Seitske. She was sired by Rinse, an animal not unknown to Friesian fame, and belongs to a good line of illustrious prize-takers, is mainly black and has a fine escutcheon. She has small waxy drooping horns with graceful inward incline, a mild expressive eye, pretty head and small neck, clean well shapen limbs, fine upper and lower lines, good length of body and a splendid udder. She is three years old, combines substance with an almost faultless form and is a famous milker, having a record of fifty-six pounds of milk per day for thirty successive June days when she was two years old. There are several other members of the herd worthy of notice for marked individual traits and according to the standards required for admission to both the Dutch-Friesian and American herd books of this famous race of cattle, the measurements of Mr. Jones entire Prairie Lawn herd of Friesians, show an exceptionally high average of excellence. Mr. Jones and his son Harry, who has personally visited several of the Dutch breeders from whom these animals were purchased, have great pride in the possession of the herd, and decline to sell any females at present, their plan being to rear a herd that for numbers and high character shall not only lend grace to the herd books, but rival the work of the foremost breeders of Holsteins in the West. They have fortune and executive ability equal to a great work in this connection, and will hardly stop short of the fulfillment of their plans. Like the stud of Percherons at Pacific Farm, the

Prairie Lawn herd of Friesians is a splendid acquisition to the higher order of advanced stock husbandry in Seward county and Nebraska. The call for Holstein cattle for the American dairy is greatly in excess of the supply, and clearly shows that the combined facilities of the Dutch and American breeders will be unequal to the coming demand.

Speaking of their value to the country, so high an authority as Lewis F. Allen, the editor of the "American Herd Book" (short-horn) says: "The qualities of the Holsteins must be acknowledged as remarkable. The short-horns have now, in these new strangers to our soil, to say the least, found most formidable competitors. The holsteins have long been bred with a view to develop their lacted qualities to the utmost, and that they are quick feeders, and constituted to turn their food readily to milk, must be evident." He also pays them a high compliment for beef qualities, and with other authorities, gives them the highest praise

business career, has found time and opportunity to do his full share for the advancement of Seward and Seward county.

A dozen miles southeast of Seward, on the bank of the Big Blue, twenty miles west of Lincoln and in the garden of the Blue valley is

MILFORD.

an exceptionally pretty town of 600 people. It was settled in 1868 by J. R. Davidson and Mr. Reed, and was for a time the county seat. The town stands upon a lovely plateau, half encircled by the clear winding Blue with its beautiful native groves of oak, ash, elm, linden and walnut and commands one of the most delightful valley views to be seen in the western country. Beyond the valley and railway roll long reaches of billowy prairie everywhere embellished with fine farm homes, orchards, vineyards, hedgerows and domestic groves. Indeed the entire surrounding country is rich in farm improvements and seems



Milford State Bank.

for cheese and butter-making qualities, quoting the record of a Holstein cow that produced seventy-six pounds of milk and three pounds of butter per day.

Claudius Jones has, in grand measure, other good fortune than the ownership of Prairie Lawn herd of imported Holsteins. He has the broadest and richest landed estate in the Blue valley, and will live to see it command a market value of \$200,000. He has available cash and securities enough to found the strongest bank in the Blue valley, and run it without fear of panic or failure. In clear business grit, forecast and financing ability, he is the peer of any man in Nebraska. He has no superior as a banker, and while building up a material fortune here in the last dozen years, has acquired the higher fortune of enviable health and unimpeachable credit. Brave, positive, aggressive and tenacious in his business life, he is yet a man of honest convictions, warm friendships and generous impulses, who, in the midst of an intensely active and laborious

very like an old and well developed farm district in Northern Illinois. The deep-shaded, picturesque bluffs, wild wooded glens, wild weird undulating canons and intervals along the west banks of the Blue make this bright rural town

A FAVORITE SUMMER RESORT

for pleasure parties from Lincoln and other neighboring towns. The R & M railway authorities are doing much to popularize Milford as a pleasure resort, by the organization of cheap excursions and the day is not distant when these wild beauty-haunted bluffs and glens will attract hundreds of summer visitors to this pretty riverside town. Milford has a good number of pleasant homes, a live and successful newspaper, two solid banks, a fine public school building, several churches, a good public hall, flourishing masonic, Odd Fellows and Good Templars lodges, a splendid water power and a shipping trade strong enough to dignify a town of 1,500 souls.

The Milford State Bank organized in 1880 with a cash capital of \$30,000, is a strong admirably managed concern, thoroughly entrenched in the popular confidence. The president Mr. C. L. Smith is an able farmer, who has made a good fortune in this county. Judge Henry Wortendyke, the vice-president is a man of ample fortune and is universally esteemed for his manly character. C. F. Wyandt the cashier is a bright, level-headed young Ohio man of ample means, capital business gifts and fine social qualities. Mr. S. D. I. Emerson, the assistant cashier and the owner and builder of the elegant new bank block, is a young gentleman of fine business qualities, liberal attainments and views and liberal worldly knowledge. He has passed most of his life in Europe and though a man of scholastic tastes, takes to business with true western grit and adaptability and worthily represents the larger share of the banking capital which is mainly held by his friends abroad. The bank is on a solid footing, represents more than half a million of private capital and is one of the most prosperous banking houses in this region.

Messrs. Wyandt & Emerson have been dealing in general merchandise here since 1878, are the foremost general merchants of the town and are among the ablest young business men of the Blue valley.

F. S. Johnson & Co., the owners of the Blue river water power, are a strong firm and are now building upon the site of the old mills, the finest roller mills in Nebraska. The stone foundation is six feet thick and will support a solid brick structure 46x64 feet, four stories above the basement, with a mansard roof. These mills are to be equipped with sixteen sets of Stevens rolls and machinery of the most approved types for the manufacture of fancy brands of flour from Nebraska wheat, and will have a daily grinding capacity of 300 barrels. Merchant corn meal and Farina of the highest grades will also be made a specialty and from base to attic these mills will be made as perfect as modern mill mechanics will admit. A 25,000 bushel elevator and a ware house with storage for 2,000 barrels of flour will be built near by and all the buildings be amply protected by a fire pump with power and hose capable of flooding the entire premises. The mills will be driven by a strong steady 200 horse water power under fourteen feet head. About 200 acres of bottom land, most of which is heavily wooded with walnut, oak and ash, are connected with the mills and will afford capital range and shelter for pigs, of which the proprietors will full feed from 800 to 1,000 annually from the offal of the mills. They will also give special attention to the breeding of pure Red Jersey and Poland pigs of the best types and have already made a good beginning in this direction. Mr. F. S. Johnson the resident member and manager of this firm comes of a well known family of Oswego, N. Y., millers and has associated with him two brothers who are also engaged in milling in that city. The firm have ample capital and any amount of business stamina, own and run a private banking house in Milford, own a half interest in Davidson & Culver's addition to Milford, have several hun-

dred acres of choice farm lands near town, are pushing an enterprise that is creditable alike to themselves and Seward county and are one of the ablest concerns in the Blue Valley.

Davidson & Culver proprietors of a valuable addition to the town, are among the most enterprising and thoroughgoing men of Seward county and are doing capital work for local advancement by manufacturing brick on a good scale, buying and shipping grain, buying and selling city lots and improved farm property and by earnest and inspiring efforts for the advertisement of the advantages of Milford and the surrounding country. Mr. J. R. Davidson of this firm was one of the founders of Milford, owns a beautiful suburban farm and home and is one of the staunch and successful men of the Blue Valley. J. H. Culver, the junior partner, is an old journalist and a wide awake, public spirited man of active brain and capital working ability. He is a strong man here and writes and talks of Milford and Seward county like an appreciative man. The Seward county Democrat, edited and published by Alexander Bros., is a spirited and influential paper and is doing excellent service for Milford and the tributary country. The erection of many new and substantial buildings, the improvement of the streets and pleasure grounds and the steady growth of trade are among the visible signs of thrift and prosperity that are likely to know no abatement until Milford has doubled its present population and become one of the strongest towns in the interior of the state. A word about the

NEIGHBORING FARMERS AND FARMS

will be in order here and is given with pleasure to indicate something of the men and means that are making Seward county one of the most desirable farm districts in the west. Judge Henry Wortendyke's 320 acre

SPRING BROOK

farm, lying two miles below Milford in the Blue bottoms is admirably watered by clear spring brooks, has forty acres of native timber and is improved with fine domestic groves, a handsome home, good out buildings, sheds, feed yards and fences. Judge Wortendyke feeds from thirty to seventy-five steers and 200 pigs and is also the owner of 750 acres of choice Blue bottom land just above the town, the whole making one of the most valuable landed estates in the Blue valley. Judge Wortendyke is a native of Genesee county, N. Y., and came to this country in 1867 with little means. He has made a handsome fortune here, served the county as probate judge, with universal acceptance, is vice-president of the Milford State bank and one of the strongest and best men in the county. Joseph M. T. Miller's 320 acre

GROVELAND

farm three miles southwest of Milford, is a model estate and is managed by a model farmer. It is graceful waving prairie, improved with a beautiful home, the finest farm barn in the county; a good granary, tool house and work shop, ample cribs and feed yards, fine orchards, groves and hedges, and forty acres of clover and timothy meadow. Mr. Miller's last year's crops embraced 5,000 bushels of corn, 1,400 bushels of oats, ten acres of barley, thirty



Lewis Moffitt

The Founder of Seward.



"Englewood," the Home of Lewis Moffitt, Seward.

acres of wheat and a field of rye. He feeds thirty to seventy pigs, keeps a small herd of cattle, grows big crops, keeps his entire farm as neat and orderly as a well cultivated garden, has an estate worth \$12,000 and has made it from an original start of \$2,000 which he brought here from Ohio in 1875. Mr. Miller is one of the foremost farmers and manliest men in this region and thinks there is no country like Seward county. Nine miles west of Milford is the well known

WEST BLUE STOCK FARM

of which a view is herewith given. It is 2,300 acres in extent, lies in the valley of the West Blue which courses the entire length of the estate and is one half rich bottom land, the balance lying upon the easterly slopes of the high prairie. The farm has about 150 acres of native wood, is superbly watered by the Blue and strong spring brooks, and has a good water power. It is improved with two pretty residences occupied by the owners, Frank W. and Arthur E. Upton; a good tenant house, a stock barn 70x100 feet with convenient stabling, an ample grain house, a scale house, extensive corn cribs, sheds and feed yards, a fine feed mill, root cellars and ample water works by which the stables, feed yards and residences are supplied with living water from wells operated by wind engines. Among the improvements too, are a farm supply store, poultry houses, a carriage house and sheep and cattle ranches with ample sheds and hay lofts. About 100 acres are stocked with clover, timothy and blue grass, and the farm annually produces from 12,000 to 16,000 bushels of corn, 1,000 to 1,600 bushels of rye, 2,500 bushels of oats and 300 tons of hay, the balance being devoted to pasture. About 100 high grade stock cattle, largely breeding cows and heifers; 350 well bred Berkshire and Poland pigs, a good string of fine brood mares and 900 grade Merino-Cotswold sheep are kept on the farm. About eighty prime steers and 200 pigs were fed last year, and the proprietors will increase their stock of horses and cattle, by careful crossings with thoroughbreds, to the full capacity of the farm. The sheep barn is 24x100 and the cattle sheds 45x100 both having admirably arranged and well watered feed yards.

One of the attractions of this fine estate, is the 1820 pound English draught stallion "Temple Brewer," a cut of which is given. He is an imported Lincolnshire cart horse of great muscular power, dark, rich chestnut color, fine action, and good general style, is four years old, comes of a superior and illustrious line of prize-takers at the leading English fairs, and is a valuable acquisition to the thoroughbred draught stock of Nebraska. Superior thoroughbred short horns, Merinos, Berkshires and Polands are at the head of their respective herds in other departments of stock husbandry on this farm, which for all stock growing purposes is one of the most valuable estates in Nebraska. The brothers Upton came here from Michigan three years ago and have expended about \$50,000 in the purchase, improvement and stocking of this noble farm. They are young gentlemen of ample means, fine social qualities, decided public spirit and generous hospitality, are greatly pleased with the country and are a

most valuable acquisition to the social and agricultural interests of the country. Five miles further up the West Blue is

BEAVER CROSSING.

a pretty country hamlet located in the midst of green native and domestic groves, beautiful meadow lands, rich corn fields fine farm homes and a valley landscape as fair as Cashmere. They have here the clear, swift winding river with a valuable water power and the Pearl mills, two general stores, some shops, a large school house a tri-weekly mail and an enviable town site, ten miles distant from Friend on the west and eighteen miles from Seward on the northeast. Beaver Crossing was located on the old Fort Kearney trail at an early day and represents one of the earliest settlements of the blue valley. Prominent among the business men of this place is Mr. F. M. Dimery the owner of the Pearl mills, the Beaver Crossing hotel, 270 acres of choice farm lands and a half interest in the general merchandise store of Tidyman & Dimery. The mills are well built and finely equipped, have four run of burrs and under Mr. Dimery's popular management have a strong merchant and custom patronage. The owner feeds about 400 choice Poland pigs and will make a good yearly feed of steers hereafter. He has some of the richest and best improved farm lands in the county, grows big crops of corn, owns the town site and offers liberal inducements to settlers. He is one of the old timers here, owns a fine home and has accumulated a handsome fortune, is a strong, practical and popular business man, stands high with his neighbors and speaks well of the country and people. Mr. Tidyman, his partner in merchandise is an excellent business man and reports a healthful and steadily growing trade.

T. H. Tisdale is also doing a fine trade in general merchandise, has a large new well stocked store, is the village postmaster and like his neighbor Dimery is one of the best business men in the valley. He began merchandising at the old crossing, four miles above here in 1869, came here in '71, and has ever since been in trade. Mr. Tisdale is a prime New Yorker of ample means and high credit, is greatly pleased with the country and enjoys the comforts of a beautiful home. Two miles above Beaver Crossing at the junction of Beaver and Indian creeks by the Blue is

MONMOUTH PARK

the 1,200 acre stock ranch of Wm. W. Embry and B. T. O. Hubbard, two well known and wealthy gentlemen of Monmouth, Ill. It is a superb tract of rolling prairie and bottoms embracing 200 acres of native timber affording perfect stock shelter and is finally watered by the three streams named, one of which affords a strong water power. The owners have lately enclosed the farm and will stock it with high grade cattle for grazing and feeding and will carry forward the work of improvement until it is one of the model stock ranches of Nebraska. Mr. Embry is a large hearted Kentuckian takes naturally to stock raising and is delighted with his late purchase and with Seward county. Mr. Hubbard is cashier of the First National bank of Monmouth and is one of the ablest business men of that city. Three

miles northeast of Beaver Crossing in the midst of a beautiful table land district is the 160 acre

GRACELAND

farm and home of Capt. E. L. Blanchard, an intelligent and progressive Massachusetts man who came here from Wisconsin four years ago. It lies eight miles southeast of Utica and is graceful rolling prairie, improved with a comfortable home, good stables, cribs, groves and a young orchard, and last year produced 5,000 bushels of corn yielding fifty bushels per acre; 1100 bushels of oats yielding sixty bushels per acre, 150 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of barley, 100 bushels of rye yielding twenty-five bushels to the acre, and seventy-five bushels of flax seed. Mr. Blanchard feeds a few pigs, keeps a few cows, owns a corn ware house at Utica, where he markets his grain, is an excel-

a good showing of attractive homes. Utica, like Milford, has made commendable progress in building during the past year, gives evidence of commercial and material thrift and is bound to compass a population of 800 or 1000 within the present decade.

At the head of the business concerns of the town is the Utica bank, established last fall by Davies & Brant. Hon. John Davies, the president, is an able attorney, and lately represented the United States at the consulate of Gloucester, England, and has served the states of Iowa and Minnesota as commissioner of emigration. Mr. T. J. Brant, the cashier, was formerly half owner of the Fremont county bank at Riverton, Iowa, is a man of prime administrative gifts and like his partner, a gentleman. The bank does a prosperous business and is well fortified in the public confi-



Pearl Mills, at Beaver Crossing.

ent and thrifty farmer and has more than doubled the capital he brought here. He is an influential member of the board of county commissioners and one of the squarest and manliest men in the county, stands high with his neighbors, is charmed with the country and is a christian gentleman. A dozen miles west of Seward near the west line of the county and in the midst of a broad, rich open prairie country is

UTICA,

a bright and growing town of 300 souls. It was laid out five years ago by Geo. B. Wright of Indianapolis, and is one of the strongest shipping and trading points on this division of the B. & M. railway. Among the marked features of Utica are two steam grain elevators, a fine public school building and graded school, two churches, a substantial bank the wide-awake Record newspaper, and

dence, Messrs. Davies & Brant will soon build a substantial brick bank building, increase their working capital and make their professional and banking business a life work in Utica. They are strong men and express decided liking for this country.

Hon. George A. Derby, a former representative of this county in the state legislature and a most excellent and reliable gentleman, is doing a good business in farm loans, real estate, abstracts and kindred work. He has a good list of wild and improved lands, and town properties for sale at current prices and will be pleased to give further information concerning this portion of the county. Mr. Derby is also city justice and notary public, owns a valuable farm, hails from Ohio and is one of the strong influential men of the county.

The hardware trade is well represented by J. E. Hibbard with full stocks of heavy and

shelf hardware, stoves, tinware and farm machinery. He leads in his line with a strong trade, is a staunch business man, owns a good suburban farm, hails from Illinois, has made a good property here and likes the country.

The medical profession is ably represented by Dr. Rufus D. Harvey an old and accomplished physician who has had a wide successful practice here since 1877. Dr. Harvey was educated at Evansville, Wisconsin, settled on a homestead in this county in 1871 and has been well identified with this region of country which he holds in high esteem. He enjoys high personal and professional standing and is a most estimable gentleman.

Utica has a splendid tributary country, ships more country produce than any town of its size on this division of the B. & M. railway and has a bright future.

Seven miles up the Big Blue to the northwest of Seward, is the new village of

STAPLEHURST

on the A. & N. division of the B. & M. railway and in one of the fairest portions of the Blue valley. It has been built up in the last two years and has now 150 people, a fine grain elevator, two general stores, a church and school house the usual complement of shops and a large shipping trade in grain and country produce. A dozen new buildings have been erected this summer and more are to follow this fall. The immediate wants of the town are a hardware and general store both of which would do well in good hands. Nelson & Jacobs the proprietors of the town site are offering decidedly liberal inducements to new settlers, whether for business or residence purposes. They own the elevator, are active and enterprising grain dealers and have already shipped over 200 car loads the present season. They belong to the race of live and public spirited men, offer town lots from \$10 to \$50 and invite correspondence from parties looking for a new location. Half a dozen miles up the valley and railway is the driving young city of

ULYSSES.

It is the creation of the B. & M. railway, has an enviable location upon the high prairie overlooking the Blue river and valley whose warm slopes, broad rich meadow lands, endless corn fields, delightful native groves, green grassy glades, vistas and intervals form a landscape as fair and enchanting as the old Arcadia. A grand succession of beautiful and fertile farms reach away in every direction to the horizon and the tributary country is large and rich enough to foster a city of 5000 souls. Ulysses has a population of 600 and has this year made a growth which in view of its superior natural and superficial advantages, gives promise of a population of 1500 within the next five years. It has one of the brightest newspapers—the Dispatch—in Nebraska, two pretty churches, a staunch banking house, two grain elevators, a fine water power and flouring mill, an elegant school house and superior graded school, a full score of business houses, a heavy general and shipping trade and some very inviting homes. Though the town is located just across the line on the southern border of Butler county, it is largely supported

by Seward county production and has so much in common with the country already sketched in these columns that I am pleased to briefly review, in this connection, something of its status and prospects.

Among the solid and successful business interests of the town is the Ulysses State Bank, organized in 1881, with a capital of \$30,000. The president, Mr. S. D. I. Emerson, is already introduced to the reader in connection with the Milford State Bank and is well known to this public as a clear-sighted, conservative and successful business manager. Mr. Arthur Hale, the cashier, is a Philadelphian of thorough experience in banking, and ranks with the best business men of this region. The stock is largely owned by the parties who control the Milford State Bank; the building, fixtures and bank management are eminently creditable to the town and it is but fair to say that the Ulysses State Bank is one of the strong advancing and popular banking houses of Central Nebraska.

Professor Harrington Emerson, late of the Nebraska State University and a gentleman of liberal views, ripe scholarship and fine business gifts, has established a loan brokerage here, which ranks with the most successful and reliable in the country. He is making guaranteed investments for eastern capitalists in first mortgaged bonds on improved farms, and town property, school bonds, bank stocks and debentures, chattle mortgages, notes, etc., etc. The dividends on these investments range from 7½ to 16 per cent., and are in all cases collected and remitted free of expense. Mr. Emerson solicits correspondence and will be pleased to send circulars and references and full lists of securities on application. He is placing from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per month, has never had a dollar of principal or interest in default, has a capital field for the prosecution of his work, and refers to the First National Bank of Lincoln and the Ulysses State Bank.

George E. Waldo, attorney and collector, is also loaning money on real estate for eastern capitalists, and is an active and successful dealer in all classes of real estate, his books, embracing descriptions of many fine farms and wild tracts which he offers at current prices in any quantity to suit the purchaser. He gives special attention to abstracts of title, the payment of taxes for non-residents, and to all legal and real estate business. Mr. Waldo has been practicing law in New York city since 1876, and settled here last winter. He is an accomplished lawyer and gentleman, and likes the country well enough to make Ulysses his permanent home.

The hardware trade is fairly represented by Lewis Swansen, with ample stocks of heavy and shelf hardware, stoves, tinware and kindred goods. He is a practical tinner and a successful business man, leads in his line, hails from Illinois, is a man of strength in the community, and is much pleased with the country.

Ulysses has a popular and well managed hotel in the Reed House whose proprietor is one of the best hotel men in the interior of Nebraska, and has given this house the air and character of a well ordered and hospitable home.

The town has in the "Dispatch" the fortune

of a bright, racy, enterprising and readable newspaper and owes a good measure of its material prosperity to the editor and publisher, Mr. C. H. Challis, who has few equals in the make-up of a versatile and readable local journal. The commercial interests of the town are mainly in good hands and the general and shipping trade of the current year will be 50 per cent in excess of former years. A good amount of building has been done during the summer and there is every prospect of future growth with rapid development of a broad and exceedingly rich tributary country. There is no end of fine.

FARMS AND FARMERS

In this region and they certainly have a heritage to be proud of. Joseph Palmer has a choice 480 acre farm three miles west of town. It is watered by wells and running creeks, is improved with a pleasant home and is devoted to corn and live stock. Mr. Palmer deals extensively in Missouri horses and mules and has already sold upwards of \$10,000 worth of his stock to the neighboring farmers this season. He came here from the "land of steady habits" eleven years ago, has grown rich in lands, of which he has 640 acres, is one of the live enterprising men of this region and has boundless faith in the future of Nebraska.

A. E. Spurek of the real estate firm of Silbert & Co., has three farms, aggregating 640 acres. They are all neighboring to the town, are well improved, and among the best lands in the county. Mr. Spurek came here from Ohio in '68 without a dollar, was the pioneer merchant of Butler county, owns a good amount of town property, is a strong man in the community, and has only good words for the county.

Half a dozen miles to the southeast of Ulysses, in one of the finest portions of Seward county, is Mike Dumnigan's

FAIRFIELD

farm. I believe it is 320 acres in extent, and improved with a fine home, good outbuildings, groves and orchards and is devoted to mixed farming. Mr. Dumnigan grows strong crops of grain, keeps a good string of horses and cattle, feeds a good bunch of prime pigs and has one of the best farms in this region. He came here in 1871 with only his empty hands, has made a handsome property out of Seward county soil, is an old and influential member of the board of county commissioners and one of the manliest men that ever turned a furrow in Nebraska. Mr. Dumnigan hails from Ireland and swears by Seward county. Two miles below Ulysses and full in the valley of the Blue is W. H. Dobson's 500 acre

SPRING VALLEY

farm. This beautiful farm has twenty acres in native timber and is improved with an excellent home and barn, ample sheds, and stables, thrifty groves, forty acres of clover and timothy meadow and superb feed yards, watered by a group of strong unfalling springs. Mr. Dobson is a capital stock farmer and feeds three car loads of heavy steers and 180 prime Poland-Jersey pigs. He keeps 110 head of high grade stock cattle, breeds to thorough-

bred short horns and grows 12,000 to 14,000 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of wheat, 1,100 bushels of oats and some rye. Mr. Dobson got a gross revenue of over \$7,000 from his farm last year. He is an excellent farmer and business manager, grows big crops, pays as he goes, is a royal man, owns one of the best farms in Seward county, hails from California and from an investment of \$2,000 a dozen years ago, has now an estate worth \$18,000. Half a dozen miles southwest of Ulysses, is A. D. Ritchie's 640 acre

BLUE RIDGE

farm. It lies upon a commanding divide, is gently rolling prairie, all under cultivation, rich as a garden, and is improved with a beautiful home, good outbuildings, good orchards, groves, wells, wind mills and fences. Mr. Ritchie last year raised 10,000 bushels of corn and 2,000 bushels of wheat and sold \$4,400 worth of sheep and 6,500 pounds of the finest Merino wool that ever went out of Nebraska. He has been one of the most successful breeders of American Merinos in this country, is vice-president of the Nebraska wool-growers and sheep breeders association and says Seward county is not only a superb sheep country, but is the best country in America for good farmers and good men. He has now on hand 100 model Merinos, has 400 acres of heavy corn, is a successful grower of domestic grasses and a number one farmer, has increased his capital 300 per cent in the last ten years and says one good man can accomplish more work here than two in the older states. Mr. Ritchie is an intelligent, practical and progressive Scotchman and one of the ablest men in the county. Just across the way from Blue Ridge is W. E. Ritchie's

HIGHLAND STOCK FARM.

It is 220 acres in extent and well improved with wells and wind mills, fine water works, elegant groves, a pretty cottage, forty acres of clover and timothy meadow and excellent fences, feed yards, corrals, sheds and stables. Mr. Ritchie got 10,000 bushels of corn yielding sixty-five bushels to the acre and 800 bushels of oats last year with the work of two hands and teams. He feeds three car loads of 1,400 lb steers and 160 prime Poland pigs, keeps twenty-five high grade stock cattle and a small herd of Merinos, owns a model farm, is a thorough, thrifty young farmer and has made every dollar of a \$10,000 property here since 1870. Of course he is delighted with the country. Near by Highland stock farm is J. D. Modlin's 400 acre

MAPLE GROVE

farm, another of these splendid estates of the divide. Mr. Modlin has the finest maple grove in the county, a fine home, fine barns, sheds, stables, cribs, feed yards, wells, wind mills, water works, fences and orchards. He has forty acres of timothy and clover meadow and last year grew 5,000 bushels of corn and 1,100 bushels of wheat. His corn fields this year, cover 100 acres that will yield 10,000 bushels. He feeds 100 prime Poland pigs, keeps a few cattle and a good string of horses, is one of the most systematic and thorough

farmers I have found in Nebraska, and the boss wheat grower of Seward county; has made up a \$15,000 property here from an investment of \$600 in 1870, hails from Indiana and like his friends, the Ritchies, thinks Seward county is the banner country.

A full quarter million dollars is annually expended for implements and machinery, where half the amount would answer the purpose if that half were decently well protected by judicious investment and subsequent care of the property. There are many other odds and ends of prodigal waste either of native or developed resource, and if the losses from all these sources were aggregated for half a dozen years they would build and equip two good railways across the county or pay off all the debts owed by all the citizens of this wondrously rich county. That the people are growing rich and even opulent under such stress and strain of careless and wasteful farming, is the highest compliment that can be paid to its measureless natural wealth. It will be seen by the thoughtful reader that all of these elements of local weakness are

EASY OF CORRECTION

and will rapidly disappear as lands grow in value and necessity compels greater care and thrift, closer economy and more thorough and systematic culture.

AN UPWARD TENDENCY

is already perceptible in all departments of local husbandry. A few good farmers serve to show how great are the rewards of skill, order, economy and thorough cultivation and they are leading their less thrifty neighbors steadily up to the higher levels of farm life—the life whose methods are to turn Seward county into a vast garden and make it one of the most inviting regions on the green earth. There is no country on earth where a given amount of labor produces finer results than in this Blue valley. Seward county, with all the temporary drawbacks above named, presents

AN INSPIRING PICTURE

of material prosperity. For days and days I have driven with delighted senses among the beautiful farms, green groves, deeply shaded avenues, endless hedgerows, thrifty young orchards and vineyards, green fragrant meadows, clear winding streams, lowland wild-woods, fattening herds and pretty homes, of 12,000 people who are making destiny for a county which was organized as late as 1865 and for the mastery of which the pioneers measured arms with the red-handed Sioux only half a dozen years earlier. I find here a score of farmers worth from \$20,000 to \$50,000; three score more worth from \$12,000 to \$20,000 a long list whose real and personal estate will foot up \$8,000 to \$12,000 and a still longer list

whose farm property may be variously estimated at \$4,000 to \$7,000, while many more with lesser estates are fast paying up for properties that two or four years hence will give them comparative independence. It may be stated to the credit of Seward county, that at least 90 per cent of all this wealth has been

DUG OUT OF THE SOIL

and made from the grasses by the brain and muscle of men who brought little or nothing with them, and, better still, represents but a small measure of the agricultural possibilities of this county which has productive capacity great enough to feed half the people of a New England state and will this year make a showing of 4,000,000 bushels of corn, 1,000,000 bushels of oats, 300,000 bushels wheat, 350,000 bushels of rye, large crops of barley, flax, and field vegetables, and a feed of 30,000 pigs and 8,000 steers. And yet its farm resources are not a fourth developed. I feel a little genuine pride in telling the reader in distant states that this view of Seward county is

NOT AN OVER-COLORED PICTURE.

In these columns may be found a record of the experience and opinions of a good number of intelligent and worthy men, representing nearly every civilized land, all departments of life and all shades of opinion, to whom the reader is confidently referred for justification of the statements and opinions of the writer. It is nearer the truth to assume that the picture cannot be over-drawn. Let him who doubts come and examine the depth and texture of the soil, the nature of grasses, the bounty of the crops and charms of landscape and himself judge of their merits. That is

A PRACTICAL TEST

and cannot mislead. This whole country is photographed in lines of grace and beauty upon the soul of the visitor, nor can the vision be dissipated. It is in his dreams of night and his day-dreams and the more he sees of the older lands, the lovelier grows the vision of the new. There is

ROOM FOR TEN THOUSAND MORE

good men in the practical ways of Seward county husbandry—men of capital, and brain, and heart and liberal experience of the world. Men of faith and working ability for the farm, the orchard, the dairy and the garden; nor can they come a day too soon for the development of resources that have been laid in these broad and inviting fields by the bounteous and unstinted hand of the great Almoner of every good and perfect gift. With a word of thanks to Messrs. McIntyre, Jones, Price, Unton, Redford, Gill, Blanchard, Johns and Wortendyke; to my genial and manly young friend, W. D. Bowers, and to ever so many others for kind offices, I give a regretful good bye to the Garden Land of the matchless Blue Valley.

Parties entitled to copies of this Hand Book will find them at the offices of Hon Ed. McIntyre and Claudius Jones, Esq., Seward; Milford State Bank, Milford; Hon. G. A. Derby, Utica, and Ulysses State Bank, at Ulysses.





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